

## 'U.S. oil import dependence rising'

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. dependence on oil from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has increased because of lower oil prices and greater demand for imports, Senator Lloyd Bentsen said Saturday. A study by the congressional joint economic committee found U.S. oil imports this year are up 610,000 barrels a day from the same period in 1985, including 500,000 barrels a day from OPEC members, he said. The report said the United States now gets 31 per cent of its oil from imports, compared with 27 per cent last year. It said the Library of Congress predicted that by 1988 imports would account for half the oil used by the United States. Lower oil prices were increasing demand for imported oil and, because imports had risen more than prices had fallen, this would increase the U.S. trade gap by \$5 billion this year, the report said.

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## King sends good wishes to Argentina

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable of good wishes on Saturday to Argentine President Raul Alfonsín on the occasion of Argentina's Independence Day. In his cable the King wished President Alfonsín continuing good health and success and the people of Argentina further progress and prosperity.

## Nakasone delays decision on elections

TOKYO (R) — Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone on Saturday postponed until Monday a response to speculation that he would call an early general election in July. Mr. Nakasone told a press conference he would make a decision after five executives of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) decided on Monday whether to convene an extraordinary parliamentary session. Asked if he would call a general election 18 months ahead of schedule during the proposed extraordinary session as widely speculated, Mr. Nakasone said: "When the LDP is still trying to win a party consensus on an extraordinary session, I must reiterate that I'm not yet contemplating an early poll."

## Craxi ends nuclear alert in Italy

ROME (AP) — Premier Bettino Craxi on Saturday announced the end of an official ban on consumption of some foodstuffs prohibited following the Soviet nuclear disaster at Chernobyl. "We can calmly return to our regular eating habits," Mr. Craxi said in a statement, adding that all traces of radiation contamination had disappeared from food.

## Siad Barre flown to S. Arabia after crash

NAIROBI (R) — Somali President Siad Barre has been flown to Saudi Arabia for treatment after a motor accident on Friday. Radio Mogadishu said Saturday. No details of his injuries have been given and a medical bulletin described his condition as good. The radio said doctors attending the president had decided he should be flown to Saudi Arabia "for further medical examination" (Earlier story on page 2).

## 7 killed in fire at W. German villa

BAD NAUHEIM, West Germany (AP) — A fire set by an arsonist raced through a 19th-century villa in central West Germany early Saturday, killing seven people and injuring 13, police said. Firemen doused the blaze by 8:30 a.m., eight hours after it began, police said. Rescue officials were working Saturday afternoon to secure fire-weakened walls to allow firefighters to enter the building in search of any more victims. Police said the blaze in Bad Nauheim, about 30 kilometres north of Frankfurt, was "clearly a case of arson," but added that investigators had not pinned down a motive and had made no arrests.

## INSIDE

Kidnappers said to be ready to free 4 captive French nationals, page 2

Jordan marks Independence Day today, page 3

Iraq adopts new tactics in efforts to force Iran to peace talks, page 4

Dead Sea: A wealth of minerals, salt and crystals, page 5

Brazil's Nelson Piquet claims pole position for today's Belgian Grand Prix, page 6

European chemical companies suffer, page 7

Aquino stresses independence of her government, page 8

## King, on visit to Zarqa, pledges continued efforts to serve pan-Arab causes

ZARQA (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein has pledged that he would pursue all efforts for serving pan-Arab causes and said he was determined to save no effort in defending Arab land.

The King said he was devoting all his efforts to perform the duty of serving the future generations regardless of any challenge.

King Hussein was greeted by enthusiastic crowds who lined the streets of Zarqa and chanted national songs in expression of their delight at the King's visit.



His Majesty King Hussein, who visited Zarqa on Saturday, is received by citizens of the governorate (Petra photo).

## New blast wounds 3 in Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — A bomb went off in an east Beirut building on Saturday, injuring three people, in the second such blast to hit the capital's mostly Christian sector within two days, security sources said.

As investigations continued into a car bomb explosion which killed nine people on Friday, Saturday's blast rocked a five-storey building in the Sabtiye area, causing extensive damage to the second floor.

Radios and newspapers meanwhile reported artillery and rocket fire hit several outlying towns and villages overnight.

The reports said Metn, Byblos and Keserwan, in Christian areas northeast of Beirut as well as villages in the Baalbek area of east Bekaa, under Syrian control, were hit by long-range shells and rockets.

President Amin Gemayel's rightist Falange Party accused Syria's secret service of engineering Friday's car bomb attack, calling it a "crime... designed to abort efforts to end Lebanon's civil war."

The "Voice of Free Lebanon," radio station of the "Lebanese Forces" militia, accused the Syrians and their allies of shelling the Christian areas Friday night.

Beirut radio and the "Sawt Al Watan" radio said shelling Friday night reached the surroundings of Baalbek, about 80 kilometres east of Beirut, and several villages in the area close to the Syrian border. There were no reports of casualties.

Just as the heavy guns fell silent on Friday, Shi'ite militiamen and Palestinian fighters clashed in renewed gunbattles around two refugee camps on Beirut's southern outskirts.

Shi'ite militiamen pounded the shantytowns of Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh with mortars and rocket-propelled grenades, while Palestinian fighters hurled hand grenades behind sustained volleys of machine gun fire, police said.

The battles raged until midnight, when a ceasefire took hold and allowed the reopening of the main highway to Beirut's international airport, police said Saturday.

They said three combatants were killed and 31 people wounded, most of them civilians.

## Italy orders out 13 more Libyans

ROME (Agencies) — Italian authorities on Saturday ordered the expulsion of the Libyan director of a Rome-based publishing company and his four assistants.

The expulsion order followed a Foreign Ministry decision on Friday to expel three Libyan diplomats and five employees of the Libyan embassy in Italy.

Police said the five Libyans were being expelled because Abdul Majid Adoushwa, 48, president of the Libyan-financed Star Photofit Publishing Company, and his four assistants had been working in Rome for several years on tourist visas.

They were ordered to leave Italy within seven days because they did not have the required work permits, police said.

Police said Mr. Adoushwa came to Italy five years ago on a six-month tourist visa.

The company publishes social and political magazines in Arabic which were distributed to Libyans throughout Europe, police said.

The other four Libyans were identified as Bahir Aziz, 69, Mohammed Reddin, 34, Ibrahim Abdallah, 66, and Saleh Shalbut, 38.

Several other Libyans in Rome and a businessman and his wife living in the Italian island of Sardinia were asked to leave Italy earlier this month on grounds that

## Chirac pledges French support for Tunisia in case of attack

TUNIS (R) — French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac on Saturday began a lightning visit to Tunisia and pledged France's instant and unreserved support in case of an attack on its former colony, which has expressed anxiety over a dispute with Libya.

Mr. Chirac, whose visit comes amid controversy over the abrupt recall of France's ambassador to Tunis, a friend of President Francois Mitterrand, was met by 82-year-old President Habib Bourguiba.

He held talks with Mr. Bourguiba at Carthage Palace and with Prime Minister Mubammad Mzali during his four-hour stay.

Asked at an airport news conference about the possibility of Libyan threats against Tunisia following last month's U.S. bombing of Tripoli and Benghazi, Mr. Chirac stressed the strong ties between France and Tunisia.

"If Tunisia was the target of an attack of whatever sort, or from whichever quarter, and it sought

"My dear brothers, Allow me to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to you for your overwhelming affection and allegiance. I wish to convey to every single person in Zarqa Governorate my deepest pride in all of the in and deep affection and appreciation for all those who made speeches to welcome me today."

"As long as I live I will pursue all efforts and endeavours to achieve your aspirations and fulfil your hopes."

"Regardless of all challenges and difficulties, the Jordanian people had been able to realise great achievements. I take pride to be one of you and in belonging to the Jordanian family and I pledge to stand by you with determination to perform our duty for the Arab Nation and future generations."

"The new five-year development plan in the Kingdom presents an image of what we wish to achieve in all walks of life and with great diligence and determination. All the major problems and the great challenges and dangers that we face now and then are but tests that which we have to undergo to prove our real attachment to the land and our steadfastness in defending the fatherland."

"Each member of the Jordanian family has to perform a sacred

(Continued on page 3)

## King visits Damascus for talks with Assad

By Jordan Times Staff

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Saturday paid a brief working visit to Damascus for talks with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said the two leaders' talks dealt with bilateral relations and the current situation in the Arab World.

The King, accompanied by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri, arrived in Damascus Saturday evening.

He was received upon arrival by President Assad, Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, Vice-President Zouhair Masharqa, Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Al Kasm, cabinet members and senior officials as well as the Jordanian charge d'affaires in Damascus.

The King and the delegation accompanying him were the guests of honour at an Iftar banquet



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan is sworn in as Regent before His Majesty King Hussein's departure for Damascus on Saturday (Petra photo).

hosted by President Assad. The Syrian delegation which received the King at the airport and senior Syrian officials attended the Iftar.

## Thatcher arrives in Israel

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Margaret Thatcher arrived here on Saturday for the first visit to Israel by a serving British prime minister.

Hundreds of troops and parliamentary police armed with automatic weapons were deployed at Tel Aviv's Ben-Gurion airport in a massive security operation.

In a prepared statement delivered upon her arrival, Mrs. Thatcher said she would discuss with Israeli leaders prospects for peace in the Middle East.

"We shall be discussing how we in Britain can help towards peace with security for Israel and for the other peoples of the region," she said.

"I am concerned that steps towards negotiations about peace appear to have lost momentum in recent months."

"I do not believe, that is your wish or that of the moderate and far-sighted Arab leaders with whom I have talked in recent months."

"I hope that we shall be able to explore together practical steps which can be taken to build confidence where there is now distrust and suspicion, and discuss, too, ways in which momentum can be restored to negotiations for a lasting peace which meets the needs of all the peoples of the area."

Israeli officials stress that the visit is taking place at all than for what Mrs. Thatcher might discuss with Israeli leaders during her three days here.

Former Foreign Minister Abba Eban warned in an Israeli Radio interview that although "we are entitled to celebrate the visit," Israel should not see it as a British attempt to become a mediator in the Middle East conflict.

But British-educated Eban said the visit added a new political dimension to the strong relations between the two countries, in which Britain is already Israel's second-largest trading partner.

Before leaving London, Mrs. Thatcher said Israel must protect Palestinian rights and indicated she thought there should be negotiations with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) if it were to renounce violence.

"We believe in human rights, so does Israel," she said in an interview with the Press Association. Britain's national news agency.

"Her standards of democracy and human rights she rightly demands for people the world over."

"Once you stand up for these things, you also have to stand up for the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. If you demand self-determination for yourself you cannot deny it for others."

She expressed concern that there was currently no peace initiative "because it means that all the Palestinians have no particular process at the moment which can give them renewed hope."

"You must do everything possible to mobilise and give support to the moderate people on the Palestinian side — who have been in the overwhelming majority — and the people of Israel who don't wish their sons to have to fight as many times as their fathers have had to fight," she said.

"My view is that I will never

(Continued on page 3)

## 3 sentenced to death for land deal

AMMAN (Petra) — The cabinet has endorsed a decision, issued by a special court for trying people who sell real estate to the Israeli enemy, sentencing to death by hanging three citizens who sold their land or property to the Israeli enemy. The three citizens are Khamis Allan Ibrahim Allan, Salah Harbi Ali Abu Dayyeh and Mahmoud Za'atar Al Kafawneh, all from Jerusalem and fugitives from law. The court also decided to confiscate their movable and immovable funds and to consider the sale null and void. The cabinet, during its session held Saturday, also approved regulations for the classification of contractors for the year 1986. Under the new regulations, contractors will be classified into six categories; the first five of which will be considered as higher categories. The contractors classification committee has been reformed under the chairmanship of the director of the public tenders department.

## U.S. and Britain veto U.N. censure of S. Africa for raids

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United States and Britain have vetoed a Security Council proposal censuring South Africa for its raids on three black neighbours on Monday because it included a call for sanctions.

France abstained. The other 12 members voted for the draft resolution prepared by Congo, Ghana, Madagascar, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Arab Emirates.

Discussions between the sponsors and the United States and Britain failed to produce a text acceptable to all, despite some changes softening the original language.

The sponsors declined to have sections of the text put to separate votes, as requested by Sir John Thomson, the British delegate.

This would have permitted the adoption of much of the text, including a strong condemnation of South Africa for its military raids into Botswana, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The sponsors deleted a mention of Chapter VII of the U.N. Charter providing for mandatory enforcement action, but insisted on retaining what is known as "Chapter VII language."

This included a statement that South African policies and acts constitute a threat to international peace and security.

The resolution called for selective economic and other sanctions, including the suspension of new investment and of guaranteed export loans. It called for bans on

the sale of South African coins, on new nuclear contracts and computer equipment sales, and restrictions on sports and cultural ties.

U.S. delegate Patricia Byrne told the council after the vote: "We do not believe that the destruction of the South African economy serves anyone's interest, least of all those who suffer under apartheid."

The destruction of economic ties, she said, would lead inevitably to the severance of political ties. "Depriving us of any leverage" over South Africa's white-minority government.

"My government cannot support language calling for the imposition of mandatory sanctions," the U.S. envoy said. "We believe that all states should be able to decide for themselves what measures are most appropriate as we pursue our common goal of destroying apartheid."

Soviet delegate Vladimir Shustov, who supported the OAU resolution, said U.S. "state terrorism" against Libya and other countries "served as a model for imitation by the regime of South Africa."

British Ambassador Thomson said England was engaged in Commonwealth efforts to arrange talks between South Africa and blacks to bring peace to the region. Therefore, he said, he opposed "short-term steps that might endanger that long-term goal."

Ambassador Massamba Sarre of Senegal, whose government

held at the Presidential Palace in Damascus.

Petra did not give the duration of the King's visit to Damascus, but it was expected that he would return to Amman late Saturday.

Upon the King's departure from Amman earlier on Saturday, he was seen off by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Al Lawzi, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, cabinet members and senior officials.

Crown Prince Hassan was sworn in as Regent before the King's departure.

The Jordanian-Syrian summit on Saturday was the third in six months. The King visited Damascus in December and President Assad returned the visit earlier this month.

## Pretoria expels U.S. diplomat

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The senior U.S. military attaché in South Africa will be expelled in retaliation for the expulsion of the top South African defence attaché in Washington, the Foreign Ministry said Saturday.

The United States, upset by South Africa's military raids on alleged guerrilla targets in three nearby countries last Monday, already had announced plans to recall Colonel Robert Hastie for consultations.

South Africa's decision to order Col. Hastie's departure signalled its anger at the U.S. condemnation of the raids, which Pretoria contends were a "legitimate" use of force as the recent U.S. air strikes on Libya.

In other developments Saturday, police said seven blacks were killed by security forces trying to halt firebomb attacks in two black townships "near" Port Elizabeth (See page 8). An eighth was killed by police while allegedly trying to set a car fire in Soweto, outside Johannesburg.

had called for the urgent council meeting on behalf of the 51-member Organisation of African Unity (OAU), said the veto of the resolution caused black African states to wonder whether "there's still any chance of resorting to the

(Continued on page 3)

## Moscow warns Israel against joining 'star wars'

MOSCOW (R) — The Kremlin has warned Israel that by joining in President Reagan's "star wars" plans it was harming prospects for a Middle East settlement, the official Soviet news agency TASS said Saturday.

It said the warning came in a message to the Israeli government, delivered by the Finnish Foreign Ministry — Moscow broke of diplomatic relations with the Jewish state in 1967.

The message said that by joining in the U.S. plans for a space-based missile defence system, Israel was contributing to increasing tension in the world, and consequently in the Middle East.

"It is beyond doubt that with the growth of tensions, the prospects for achieving a just Middle East settlement answering the interests of all the states and peoples there will become even more distant," it said.

Israel became the third U.S. ally after Britain and West Germany to agree to take part in "star wars" — the popular name for the strategic defence initiative (SDI) — on May 6.

The Kremlin statement reiterated previous Soviet charges that the programme would spread the arms race to space between the

## Africa to seek \$85 billion in new aid and debt relief

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Africa, devastated by drought and indebtedness, will ask industrial nations for at least \$85 billion in new aid and debt relief when a special session of the U.N. General Assembly opens Tuesday.

But the richer nations are balking at any blanket commitment and are only willing to consider target figures on a non-binding basis.

The special, five-day session on "the critical economic situation in Africa" is the first assembly meeting on the economic problems of a specific region.

Delegates from 159 member nations, including U.S. secretary of State George Shultz and 22 other foreign ministers, are to debate an African call for a "new set of relationships" between Africa's 51 nations and the international community.

## OPEC ministers continue Taif talks

TAIF, Saudi Arabia (R) — Five oil ministers from the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) resumed talks here on Saturday amid signs a new strategy of seeking a fair share of the world oil market might be working.

Following a meeting of experts, ministers from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Indonesia, Venezuela and Nigeria reopened talks.

Officials said the experts reviewed forecasts on the world oil market and found that demand had risen more quickly than expected and more oil wells than previously thought had been shut down because of this year's collapse in prices.

This would mean adjustments in forecasts agreed by a majority at last month's full OPEC conference in Geneva, which put demand for OPEC oil in the third quarter this year at 16.3 million barrels per day (bpd) and in the fourth quarter at 17.3 million, they said.

The ministers are meeting to review links with non-OPEC producers, whose cooperation with OPEC is critical to the group's new policy.

United Arab Emirates Oil Minister Mana Said Al Oteiba sat in on the earlier meeting, but was not at Saturday's session.

Nigerian Oil Minister Rilwanu Lukman, in an interview with the English-language Saudi Gazette, said most non-OPEC producers have "practically agreed to production cutbacks."



# Kidnappers reportedly to free 4 Frenchmen soon

**BEIRUT (Agencies)** — An influential Lebanese newspaper reported Saturday that four French hostages in Lebanon might be freed by kidnappers within two days and another four French captives might be released a week later.

As Safir's front page report quoted informed sources in Beirut who told the paper they had obtained their information from "parties involved in the French hostages question."

The report follows a flurry of speculation that freedom might be imminent for the missing Frenchmen, at least three of whom are now in their second year of captivity at the hands of the shadowy "Islamic Jihad" (holy war) group.

The pro-Iranian organisation said it has killed a fourth Frenchman, Arabist scholar Michel Seurat, and U.S. diplomat William Buckley, but their bodies have not been found.

Another group, the "Revolutionary Justice Organisation," says it holds a four-man French TV crew.

The weekly Ash-Shiraa, meanwhile, quoted informed political sources as saying six hostages would be freed shortly, three of them French and three Americans. The magazine, which has close links to Syria, gave no further details.

Altogether there are nine French expatriates and a

Franco-Lebanese woman among 22 foreigners missing in Lebanon. Meanwhile Iran's Deputy Premier Ali Reza Moayeri returned to Tehran from Paris with a French promise for the acceptance of Iranian conditions for the improvement of Franco-Iranian relations, Iran's official news agency, IRNA, reported Saturday.

Informed sources in Paris had reported earlier that following such an improvement, Iran would use its influence to seek the release of at least nine Frenchmen being held hostage in Lebanon.

Mr. Moayeri described as "positive" his talks with French officials during his three-day visit to Paris. IRNA reported.

The agency, which is monitored here, also quoted him as saying he had reiterated Iran's three preconditions for an improvement of relations.

IRNA quoted Mr. Moayeri as saying the three conditions are:

A halt to French military and economic aid to Iraq.

The unconditional repayment of an one-billion dollars Iranian loan to France.

The halting of French support

for Iranian "fugitive counter-revolutionaries" living in France. "The French officials have made promises in this connection and we are waiting their practical measures," IRNA quoted Mr. Moayeri as saying.

While in Paris, Mr. Moayeri denied his country was linked to the groups holding the French hostages in Lebanon, but said his country would help bring about their release.

It was unclear from Mr. Moayeri's statements whether Iran's demand for the ending of French support for the French-based counter-revolutionaries included their extradition for trial in Iran.

On his return to Tehran Mr. Moayeri was quoted by IRNA as saying only that Iran had asked France to "stop its support" for the dissidents.

But while in Paris Mr. Moayeri said that though Iran respected the granting of asylum to political refugees, it wanted the extradition of opposition leaders "with blood on their hands."

Mr. Moayeri did not identify any of these opposition leaders. It is believed he was referring to Vassouk Rajavi, the leader of the Paris-based Mujahideen Khalq underground.

Iran blames the group for a series of bomb outrages and assassination attacks in Iran that caused many civilian casualties.

## No progress reported on Taba dispute

**CAIRO (AP)** — The United States is continuing efforts to bridge the gap between the positions of Egypt and Israel on a disputed border area but so far has made no progress, Egypt's chief negotiator said Saturday.

State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer, head of a four-man U.S. delegation holding talks in Egypt after a session in Israel failed to resolve the impasse, confirmed that both Egypt and Israel were sticking by their public positions.

Mr. Sofaer met Saturday with Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid and then with Nabil Al Arabi, head of the Egyptian team, on the stalled talks on the beach resort called Taba.

He said after the meetings that he would stay in Cairo for more talks and that no date had been set for a next negotiating round including all three countries. Taba is a one-square-kilometre stretch of beach in the Sinai Peninsula over which both Egypt and Israel claim sovereignty.

"The talks are still continuing," Mr. Arabi told reporters. "Both sides are standing firm by their positions, and the American side is trying to bridge the gap."

Mr. Sofaer described Saturday's meetings as "very positive." While claiming "the process has gained considerable momentum," Mr. Sofaer admitted: "Both sides are clinging very hard to their previous positions."

After the two-day session in Israel that ended Thursday, Israeli radio said Mr. Sofaer carried new compromise proposals to Egypt regarding the main stumbling block, the question to be presented for arbitration.

Mr. Sofaer would not say in Cairo whether he had brought any new ideas.

## Somali president survives car accident

**MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)** — Somali President Mohammad Siad Barre has survived a car accident near Mogadishu, the Qatar News Agency reported Saturday.

In a dispatch from Mogadishu the agency, monitored in Bahrain, said Mr. Barre's car overturned at a point 13 kilometres from the city, and that he was moved to hospital.

It quoted a government statement in Mogadishu as saying that Mr. Barre was in "good shape." The statement said that the mayor of Mogadishu, Hassan Eissar, was in the same car with Mr. Barre and that he too was hospitalised for unspecified injuries.

The accident was attributed to torrential rains, the agency said.

## Bahrain-Qatar rift 'de-escalated'

**RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP)** — The Foreign Ministers of Bahrain and Qatar were to meet in Riyadh under Saudi Arabian auspices to devise a phased solution to the territorial dispute between the two countries, well-placed official sources reported Saturday.

They said that Sheikh Mohammed bin Mubarak Al Khalifa of Bahrain and Sheikh Ahmad bin Saif Al Thani of Qatar were to hold rapprochement talks in the Saudi capital sometime within the next 10 days.

The two men were expected to confer with Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan and Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal to explore areas of accord and define means of eliminating discord over the Huwair Islands and the Fasht Al Dibai reef dispute between Bahrain and Qatar.

Prince Sultan was instrumental

in arranging an initial accord to avert a military confrontation between Bahrain and Qatar, after the April 26 troop landing by Qatar on the reef.

The landing precipitated tension, with Bahrain reinforcing its forces on Huwair and Qatar moving forces and armour to coastal points opposite the islands.

The Qataris meanwhile were reported to have partially evacuated Bahrain's reef. Official Bahraini sources said the Saudi-sponsored accord calls for a withdrawal of Qatari troops from the reef, which is midway between Qatar and Bahrain, reopening civil aviation traffic and marine shipping lanes in the region.

Bahrain has laid claim to Huwair, a string of tiny islands abutting the north westerly Qatari coast.

Bahrain and Qatar are members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), a regional economic integration and combined defence pact that also groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Oman.

GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara of Kuwait was in Manama to arrange with Bahrain officials means of implementing the Saudi-arranged accord.

Mr. Bishara was accompanied by a team of military experts led by Gen. Youssef Al Madani, head of the GCC military committee. Arab diplomatic sources said the accord envisages two GCC military observation teams — one in Bahrain and another in Qatar — to oversee the de-escalation and pave the road for a return to normality between the two countries.

## 4,800 more Jews settle in West Bank

**LONDON** — The number of Israeli settlers in the occupied Arab territories (excluding East Jerusalem) increased by 4,800 last year, bringing the total to 42,000, according to Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics.

Early this year Meron Benvenisti, Director of the West Bank Data Base project, headquartered in Jerusalem, disclosed that there had been a 9,400 increase in the number of Israeli settlers in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, in 1984-85, compared with a rise

of 15,500 the previous year. Much of the increase, he said, had been in the fifteen settlements around Jerusalem and to the north east of Tel Aviv, which he described as being the only viable Israeli colonies amongst the more than one hundred in the West Bank.

Benvenisti stressed that the Israeli colonisation effort was running out of steam, and further backing for this view was provided on April 19, when the Jerusalem Post disclosed that the right wing Gush Emunim organisation "is

short of the people needed to establish settlements in the administered territories and lacks the funds to purchase all the land that were offered for sale."

The paper said that Amman, the Gush Emunim settlement agency, planned to establish two new colonies, Peat Hassadeh, in the Gaza Strip, and Ginat, in the West Bank. However, "the movement may be unable to set them up for lack of manpower."

## Separated Rafah families pray to be reunited soon

By William C. Mann  
Associated Press

**RAFAH, Egypt (AP)** — Rafah's Palestinians clutch a fence and strain to hear loved ones shouting through a similar fence 40 metres away in Gaza.

Mostly, the conversations are like those families have across the dinner table.

Ghazi Hamade Abbas shouts the news of Fathia's upcoming marriage and solicits advice on improvements he's making to his house. Fawzi Mubammad picks up 12-year-old Suzy to show the family how tall she's getting.

Fence-shouting is the only way for more than 560 families — 5,000 Palestinians stranded on the Egyptian side of the border with the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip — to overcome the separation forced on them by international politics.

Rafah was part of Palestinian Gaza, administered by Egypt under the armistice that ended the Middle East war of 1948, until Israel captured it and Egypt's Sinai peninsula to the south in 1967.

Israel removed the distinction between the two areas, and under its occupation Rafah expanded into the Sinai.

Egypt made peace with Israel in 1979, and in talks leading to recovery of the Sinai, Cairo rejected an Israeli suggestion that all of Rafah be put under either Egyptian or Israeli control. It refused to leave the Sinai portion under the Israelis and said it couldn't accept the Gaza portion because it deems the strip a part of Palestine.

The result was a divided Rafah and separated families.

The families were told to stay on

the side where they were living but that they would be reunited within six months of the final Israeli withdrawal on April 25, 1982.

Four years later, the reunification still hasn't happened. But the Palestinians talk today of renewed hope, a real chance that they'll be able to go home, "Inshallah," God willing.

"It seems like we've been promised we would go home millions of times, but this time it appears to be different, inshallah," said Mustafa Kamel Eid, 27, an engineer.

For the first time, Palestinians on the Egyptian side of Rafah are being taken to Gaza, at a rate of about 25 a week, to see land reserved for them on Tall Al Sultan, a hill in what they call "Rafah-Palestine." Most residents are expected to settle on the hill.

Israel and Egypt agreed this year on compensation for the refugees, said to have been the final obstacle to the move. Cairo will pay each family \$8,000 to build new quarters in Gaza, and Israel will provide \$9,000 worth of land and construction support.

Attia Abdul Aziz Mosallam, the mayor of Camp Canaan, the settlement where most of the Palestinians on the Egyptian side live, said that when the go-ahead comes, all his people will go home. "Every family has some relatives there," he said. "We need to be together."

Nevertheless, no date has been set for the return. "As far as we're concerned, they will go back," said Taha Al Farawany, head of the Palestinian Department of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry. "It is part of our obligations under the treaty, and we live up to our obligations."

assessments. We assume the Israelis will."

The Israeli Defence Ministry's coordinator for territories, Shmuel Goren, has said Israel would fulfil its commitments, although "if it were only up to us, without any connection to the Egyptians, I suppose we would not volunteer to receive the men."

Despite the Palestinians' optimism, some refugees in the Rafah Palestinian community, like Eid's friend Faisal Rifaa Abu Marzuk, remain unconvinced that the long separation will end soon.

"All problems outside have consequences on the camp," he said. "Even if they really have reached an agreement, there could be a terrorist attack somewhere or something else could happen, and the plans would be scrapped."

"Nobody in the world can understand the situation in this camp. It's been four years, and there's no improvement."

Compared with refugees elsewhere, the Palestinians at Camp Canaan, named for Canadian units once housed there with a United Nations force, live well. Their houses are substantial, their health tended to in clinics financed by the United Nations and Egypt, their children clean and well-educated in a school built with money from the Palestine Liberation Organisation's cultural branch.

Still, they remain foreigners, and must renew residence permits every six months. Most are forbidden under Egyptian law from holding government jobs. "We are running just to live," Eid said. Even doubters like Rifaa, a 30-year-old father of six, admit

## MAP appeals for funds

**LONDON** — The London-based charity Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) has launched an urgent appeal for funds to allow an expansion of its aid programme for refugees in Lebanon.

£30,000 is being sought to enable MAP to send two medical teams to work in the war-torn Palestinian refugee camps of Sabra, Shatila and Bourj Al Barajneh in Beirut. Since July last year the charity has already sent four teams to the camps, along with medical supplies, allowing hundreds of lives to be saved.

Backing is being sought, meanwhile, for a sponsored cycle ride, on June 8, Abdul Karim Ma'ali, a Palestinian student at North East London Polytechnic, will cycle from London to Brighton and back — a distance of 120 miles.

For each mile covered, sponsors are being asked to donate the price of one or more antibiotic tablets. The hope is that £7,500 will be raised to purchase 250,000 tablets for use in the refugee camps.

Funds for MAP's programme in Lebanon will also come from a special dinner, to be staged on a Thames river cruiser on June 2. Tickets for the event, which will include music and other entertainment, are available from MAP at £30 each — Council for the Advancement of Arab-British Understanding bulletin.

## PLO leader may visit U.N. in June

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)** — A Palestinian official has said PLO leader Yasser Arafat might try to come to New York next month to address the U.N. Security Council despite U.S. congressional opposition.

Zehdi Lahib Terzi, U.N. observer of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), indicated, though, that prospects for an Arafat visit had become more remote now that the 21-member Arab group here had decided to postpone its request for a Security Council debate by two weeks, until late June.

"But I still won't rule out the possibility," Mr. Terzi said Friday of Arafat's attendance. Under the

U.N. headquarters agreement, Mr. Terzi maintained, the United States would be obligated to issue Arafat a visa.

Mr. Arafat addressed the U.N. General Assembly in 1974 when that body granted the PLO non-voting observer status.

Mr. Terzi's comments came after 45 American Senators sent a joint letter to the State Department Thursday asking that a visa be denied should Arafat decide to attend the Security Council session.

The letter said that Mr. Arafat's fateh wing of the PLO had killed 32 Americans, wounded 38 and kidnapped six.

Joseph Reap, a State Dep-

artment spokesman, said in Washington on Thursday that the United States had not received any official word on any request for an Arafat visa.

Mr. Terzi told a reporter an Arafat visit would have been more certain had the Arab group stuck to its original plan to call for a council meeting on the "question of Palestine" in early June.

The original target date of June 9, however, would have conflicted with the feast ending the month-long Muslim fast of Ramadan and with Security Council consultations on extending the mandate of the U.N. peacekeeping force on Cyprus.

## Arab Americans building political structure

**WASHINGTON (USIA)** — Since the last presidential election two years ago, Americans of Arab descent have become a political force in the United States, a prominent Arab American politician said.

In a May 21 news conference for members of the Middle East news media, James Zogby, founder of the Washington-based bipartisan Arab American Institute, predicted that Arab Americans will not be able to influence the Congress on political issues before the 1988 presidential race "but we can reshape our political strategy," he said. "We must focus on what is possible — shaping electoral strength, influencing races, developing power bases."

Last year James Zogby helped found the Arab American Institute (AAI) to help organise

Arab Americans into a political constituency able to claim its place in American politics. Referring to an AAI meeting this past weekend in Washington, Mr. Zogby told reporters he was "excited about the coming year. Today we have more allies than ever before."

He predicted that by developing greater visibility and strategy, Arab Americans will be able to play local successes into national strength in time for the next presidential election.

Mr. Zogby said that the AAI has achieved success among recent immigrants to the United States who have settled primarily in New York City and Chicago. There are also growing Arab American populations in the states of California and Rhode Island. "We are building a most significant combination from the bot-

tom up — a bi-partisan electoral vehicle." And our track record is exceptional," he reported. "We have brought together several generations of Arab Americans with common concerns as well as non-Arab members of the communities."

But Mr. Zogby emphasised that the AAI has not lost sight of international concerns. "We keep our eyes on the national track," he said. "Our goal is to have from 80 to 100 delegates in the next national convention of the Democratic Party."

In answer to a question about threats to Arab Americans by extremist groups, Mr. Zogby said, "It is important not to isolate ourselves. We ought to isolate the source of the threats."

## TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	19:00	Newsdesk
	19:30	Date with a Star
	20:00	Evening Show
	21:00	News Summary
	21:05	Evening Show Cont.
	21:55	News Summary
	22:00	Evening Show Cont.
	22:05	News Summary
	22:57	News Headline
	24:00	Close down
<b>BBC WORLD SERVICE</b>		
	07:00	Newsdesk
	07:30	The Best of British
	07:45	Financial Review
	07:55	Reflections
	08:00	World News
	08:05	24 Hours News Summary
	08:30	The World
	08:45	Letter from America
	09:00	Newsdesk
	09:30	Jazz for the Asking
	10:00	World News
	10:05	24 Hours News Summary
	10:30	From Our Own Correspondent
	10:45	World News
	11:00	World News
	11:05	Reflections
	11:15	The Pleasure of Your 12:00 World News
	12:00	British Press Review
	12:15	Reflections
	12:30	World News
	12:35	Living with Drought
	12:45	World News Summary
	13:00	Classical Record Review
	13:30	Religious Service
	14:00	World News
	14:05	From Our Own Correspondent
	14:15	World News
	14:30	24 Hours News Summary
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	24:00	World News

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### TODAY'S EVENTS

### EXHIBITION

A painting exhibition by the students of the Nazareth Sisters College at the French Cultural Centre (until May 28).

"Caricatures from the Federal Republic of Germany at the Goethe Institute (until May 28).

### CIRCUS

Romanian Circus daily at Al Hussein Sports City.

### CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6610367

American Centre - 644371

British Council - 641520

French Cultural Centre - 637009

Goethe Institute - 641993

Soviet Cultural Centre - 644203

Spanish Cultural Centre - 624049

Turkish Cultural Centre - 639777

Haya Arts Centre - 661819

Haya Arts Centre - 661819

Y.W.C.A. - 641793

Y.W.C.A. - 641793

Amman Museum - 678906

University of Jordan Library - 843555

### CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) - Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) - Tel. 624590





His Majesty King Hussein meets Saturday with visiting French envoy Jean Francois Deniau (centre) and French Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Leclercq (Petra photo)

## King holds talks with French envoy

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday held talks with French envoy Jean Francois Deniau who is currently on a visit to Amman.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, which reported the meeting did not give any details about the nature of the talks which were attended by French Ambassador to Jordan Patrick Leclercq.

Mr. Deniau, vice president of the French National Assembly's foreign committee, was also received by Foreign Minister Taber Al Masri. Petra added, The agency said the talks between Mr.

Masri and Mr. Deniau dealt with the current situation in the region but did not elaborate.

Earlier on Saturday, Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Dudin briefed the French envoy on his ministry's activities and the minister pointed out Israel's expansionist policy and its drive to evict the indigenous Arab people from their homeland.

Mr. Dudin also explored possibilities for the European Community (EC) to contribute towards the implementation of Arab projects in the occupied territories. Outlining the ministry's

activities, Mr. Dudin said that his ministry and its affiliated departments are offering services to more than half a million Palestinian refugees in the Kingdom.

Lower House of Parliament Deputy Speaker Ismael Hijazi also received Mr. Deniau and briefed him on the current situation in the occupied Arab territories and the difficulties Arab residents are facing under Israeli occupation.

Mr. Deniau arrived in Amman on Friday for a three-day visit. He visited Syria before arriving in Amman via the border post of Ramtha.

## King visits Zarqa, pledges continued efforts

(Continued from page 1)

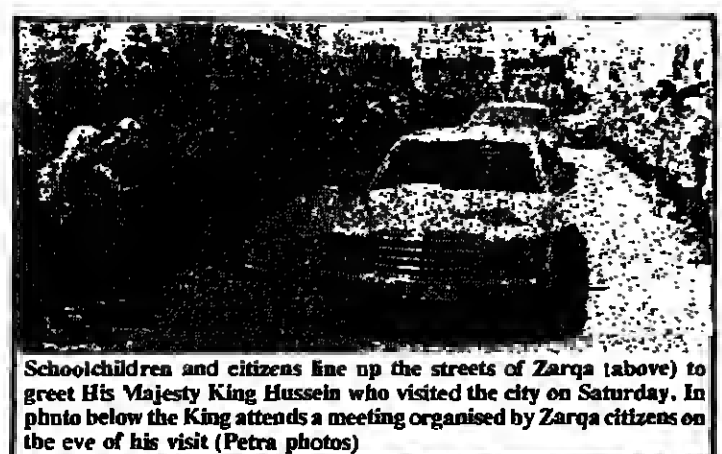
duty towards the country and to serve the coming generations. Let the past experiences serve as a guide, leading us to our duty and the pursuance of our goals. I myself will do my best to perform my duty and will continue as long as I live to work for preserving freedom and unity of the Arab Nation."

In a speech welcoming the King, Zarqa Governor Mohammad Al Dabaai paid tribute to the King's endeavours that resulted in great progress and prosperity for the Kingdom in agriculture, industry, trade and other fields and services. Through the King's efforts Jordan had been able to overcome all the hardships and Jordanian community had been able to forge an exemplary society enjoying freedom and justice, Mr. Dabaai said.

Badri Bahaaddin, chairman of the Zarqa Municipal Council, said the King's visit to the governorate, coming on the eve of the Kingdom's Independence Day celebrations, was a manifestation of his will to work for the country's progress, construction and prosperity.

Mr. Bahaaddin outlined the municipality's programmes and projects included in the new five-year plan and their contribution towards the economic and social development of the city.

Dr. Mustafa Al Fayyad delivered a speech on behalf of the professional unions in Zarqa. He reviewed the achievements realised in Jordan under King Hussein's leadership in the political,



Schoolchildren and citizens line up the streets of Zarqa (above) to greet His Majesty King Hussein who visited the city on Saturday. In photo below the King attends a meeting organised by Zarqa citizens on the eve of his visit (Petra photos)



educational, economic and construction fields.

Abdul Karim Al Khalaleh made a speech on behalf of the youth sector in Zarqa. He said that the rally and the welcome accorded to the King on his visit was a means of expressing the people's deep affection and allegiance to the monarch on the eve of the Independence Day anniversary.

The youth of Zarqa, Mr. Khalaleh said, came to renew allegiance to the Hashemite throne

and their determination to march behind the King's leadership for serving the country and achieving further prosperity.

Hind Abul Al Shaar spoke on behalf of the women's union in the city. She expressed the union's delight at welcoming the King. She also expressed Jordanian women's gratitude to the King and government for granting them the opportunity to contribute towards the country's progress and development.

## U.S. and Britain veto U.N. resolution

(Continued from page 1)

international community to resolve this problem peacefully."

In Moscow, the Soviet news agency TASS said on Saturday the United States and Britain have shown themselves to be "inspired of state-sponsored terrorism" by vetoing the U.N. resolution.

In a report from New York, the news agency said the Friday night veto reaffirms "the conviction expressed in the document that the apartheid system stays only because of the political and economic support for the racist regime."

TASS also quoted Isaac Mudege, Zimbabwe's representative on the Security Council, as saying the vetoes will encourage South Africa to launch further attacks.

"The USA and Britain have again appeared in front of the whole world as inspirers of state-sponsored terrorism, as patrons of the racist regime of the Republic of South Africa," TASS said.

In Washington on Friday, the United States ordered the expulsion of the senior defence attaché in South Africa's embassy to protest the raids, and the U.S. defence attaché in Pretoria was summoned home for consultations.

Announcing the move on Friday, the State Department said: "We trust this action will make clear to the South African government that the United States cannot tolerate disregard of the sovereignty of South Africa's neighbours."

Secretary of State George Shultz said separately that the raids were an outrage and completely unacceptable.

The U.S. action was seen as a sharp rebuke to the South African government, with which the Reagan administration has pursued a controversial policy of "constructive engagement" in an effort to retain influence in Pretoria.

The South African government said on Saturday the senior U.S. military attaché will be expelled from South Africa in retaliation

for the expulsion of the South African attaché in Washington.

In Cardiff, anti-apartheid campaigner Bishop Desmond Tutu on Friday urged British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to change her mind and support economic sanctions against South Africa.

"If we don't have sanctions then heaven help us. If they don't happen then the prospects will be catastrophic," he said.

Bishop Tutu, who won the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize, was speaking in Cardiff at the start of a two-day visit to Wales, where he will join celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of the multi-denominational Council of Churches for Wales.

He told a news conference he could not accept Mrs. Thatcher's argument that South African blacks would suffer most if the West applied a strict economic boycott.

"Blacks are suffering now. If the West does not apply immediate sanctions, the prospects for them will be even worse," he said.

## Thatcher in Israel

(Continued from page 1)

negotiate with those who practice terrorism, but I am prepared to negotiate with those who renounce terrorism.

"Similarly, if one is to get more and more Palestinians used to exercising some responsible power, it is important in the West Bank to try and get some local representatives there."

Mrs. Thatcher said Israel faced a demographic time-bomb in holding on to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. If the Arab population reached the Jewish level, "that will take you right back into the problems of many years ago. It would no longer be an Israel, a Jewish state."

## Italy orders out 13 more Libyans

(Continued from page 1)

assault. Three gunmen were killed during the attack.

Mr. Sica had told the AP in an earlier interview that Sarham's confessions revealed that he had left Damascus for Europe to stage the attack and likely had Syrian support.

Il Tempo quoted unidentified judicial sources as saying 20 Syrians were being accused in the warrants of complicity, while the Milan paper said the 20 were "seemingly all of Syrian nationality."

In Washington, the State Department, citing what U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz called "continuing" intelligence about Libyan involvement in "terrorism," said on Friday there app-

earred to be no change in Libyan policies.

Mr. Shultz, answering reporters' questions in the State Department lobby, said, "You see from the continuing reports coming out of Europe of the continuing flow of intelligence on Libyan involvement in terrorists acts, which they brag about."

The New York Times, quoting unnamed officials, said in Friday editions that American intelligence had detected evidence that some of the reported plots cited as justification for last month's U.S. raid against Libya were still in motion.

Asked about the report, State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said "there have been indications that Libya has not changed its conduct."

# Jordan marks Independence Day today

Exhibitions, festivals organised to celebrate 40th anniversary of Jordan's independence

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan today celebrates the 40th anniversary of its independence with celebrations in main cities and the opening of exhibitions, parks and cultural activities.

Amman Municipality opened an agricultural, industrial and commercial exhibition which displays the Ministry of Agriculture's production, statistics about crop outputs and other features of Jordanian agricultural life. Nearly 40 local industrial and business companies from Jordan's private sector are taking part in the exhibition.

Also as part of the activities to mark Jordan's Independence Day, three public gardens will be officially opened at the Sports City district, Marka and Nasr. In cooperation with the Department of Culture and Arts, the municipality will hold an exhibition of handicrafts on the pavement of the new Hashimi Street.

### Municipality honours employees

On the eve of the anniversary, the municipality held a celebration to honour 40 of its veteran officials in recognition of their efforts and their long and devoted service. Officiating at the celebration was Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh who said that these employees at the municipality have laid the cornerstone for the present services offered to the public in the capital.

Speaking at the celebration was Mr. Suleiman Al Najdawi who

spoke for the veterans, and he expressed their appreciation for the honour bestowed on them. Several senior officials from Amman Municipality attended the celebration.

The municipality will organise a flower procession to pass through the streets of the capital on Sunday. The vehicles, bedecked with flowers, will represent different businesses and institutions. Boy scouts and the army bands are expected to take part in celebrations to be held in different parts of the Kingdom on the occasion.

On the eve of Independence Day, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, issued a statement outlining the developments and progress Jordan has achieved since 1921 under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein's grandfather, King Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein.

The statement from Petra also said that King Hussein has helped Jordan progress from a country with limited resources to a developed country. The agency said that this progress was made possible because the King has charted a clear-cut policy derived from the principles of the Great Arab Revolt which his great grandfather Al Hussein Ibn Ali launched earlier this century.

Jordan's policy  
The statement also said that the

Kingdom's policy, as charted by King Hussein, was based on Arab solidarity and adherence to national and pan-Arab principles and therefore Jordan stood by Iraq in its just war against Iran and also by Syria in its war with Israel in 1973 and because of this stand, Jordan also stood by Egypt during the Israeli, British and French aggression.

Petra said that as part of Jordan's continuous endeavours to find a just and comprehensive sol-

ution to the Palestine problem, King Hussein has devoted his time and effort to re-establish Arab solidarity and to enhance joint Arab action.

### Development

On the economic front, Jordan has succeeded in achieving its development plans and high rates of growth in all fields. Petra said, This anniversary coincides with the commencement of a new five-year plan which is designed to

achieve further progress and prosperity for the Kingdom. Petra continued, It said that a total of JD 3.175 million will be spent on various projects included in the plan.

The new plan, the agency said, envisages greater participation from the private sector and plans for the development of local communities.

All government departments and public institutions will be closed today to mark the anniversary of Independence Day.



Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'ouf Al Rawabdeh presents an award to a municipal employee in recognition of his long and devoted service to the municipality of Amman during a celebration held Saturday evening (Petra photo)

## Committee reviews programme for Arab Children's Conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — A committee preparing for the Arab Children's Conference, which will start in Amman on Aug. 15, held a meeting here Saturday at the Queen Noor Foundation to review plans and programmes for the conference.

The programme's Director Issam Zawawi spoke at the meeting and outlined the aims and objectives of the conference which, he said, enjoys the backing and interest of Her Majesty Queen Noor. Children from almost all Arab countries will take part in the conference and activities set in the programme. Mr. Zawawi said. He continued that the children will be given the chance to meet with Jordanian children and will enjoy recreational

activities. Also, they will tour different parts of the country to familiarise themselves with Jordanian life and the responsibilities shouldered by Jordan in the face of Israel's aggression. Mr. Zawawi added.

This meeting in Amman will give Arab children the chance to build strong relations with Jordan and its people and the conference will focus on efforts being made in the Kingdom to provide more facilities and care for children. Mr. Zawawi said.

He added that this annual conference is open to all Arab countries so that they might contribute to dialogue and exchange which would benefit both children and the Arab countries in which they live. Referring to conferences

held previous years, Mr. Zawawi said that the organisers have benefited from previous experiences and the different activities held for the children ever since the programme started in 1979.

Last year 70 children from 11 Arab countries took part in the programme and were taken to a number of archaeological sites in the Kingdom. They also visited development projects, the Jerash festival and met with children from Jordan and their families.

The children were received by Her Majesty Queen Noor and they presented the Queen with gifts from their countries.

According to Mr. Zawawi, last year's activities were organised in cooperation with private and public institutions.

## Arab-American composer sows the seeds to revive classical Arabic music

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Simon Shaheen is an Arab American professor of music and a composer who dedicates most of his time to the revival of classical Arabic music. His definition of classical Arabic music, however, is different from that of most music schools in the world.

Dr. Shaheen, who is a graduate of the Manhattan School of Music, said that Moorish Arabic music and early 19th Century music can be developed into something that is much more original and creative than any music produced today in the Arab World.

"The Western music is harmonical with two modes; major and minor," Dr. Shaheen said. "Arab music is very melodic with 156 modes."

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Shaheen said that Arabic music needs to be developed by going back and adapting from the Arabic Moorish and early 19th Century music. "What we need is people to sponsor it with responsibility, knowledge and vision," he said.

The 30-year-old composer, who holds a doctorate of music from the University of Columbia, said that what he seeks to achieve is not an imitation of classical Arabic music, but the development of the technical historic and musical elements in that music. He said that the kind of music he intends to develop was not something he expects to succeed in a short period of time.

"What I am trying to do is plant the seeds for 20 to 30 years later," he said, adding that he is very optimistic about the possibility of succeeding in his endeavour.

Dr. Shaheen said that the students he teaches at the University of Columbia — many of whom are Arab-Americans — take lessons in developing classical Arabic music. "Mixing classical Arabic music with classical Western music is a unique phenomenon," Dr. Shaheen said. "Many people are beginning to appreciate it."

He performed two concerts at the Royal Cultural Centre during his trip to Amman late last month. His repertoire covers classical

Western music from the Baroque period to modern 20th Century music.

Dr. Shaheen said he is the first to start using this technique of mixing classical Western music with classical Arabic music with the proper use of musical instruments in what he calls "instrumental specialisation."

"Every kind of music and indeed every piece of music should be played by a certain musical instrument and not an other," he maintains. "There has to be this kind of specialisation."

Dr. Shaheen, who obtained U.S. citizenship in 1980, said that his concept of composition is based on limiting the number of musical instruments used, defining the kind of instruments, as well as the form and style. He said he performed this form of music in Carnegie Hall in New York last year.

Dr. Shaheen told the Jordan Times that being a Palestinian working in New York has had no negative impacts on his career. "I'm talented... everything else doesn't matter," he said. "One should not seek sympathy being a Palestinian or blame institutions for his failure," he added.

His experiences, he said, and the concept of Western classical music, broadened his vision and scope of Arabic music. Dr. Shaheen regrets, however, that the Arab World "is suffering from great confusion in the effort to define classical Arabic music and hence to develop it."

The music professor from Galilee believes that there is so much in Arab classical music that can be exploited to produce a very original form of music. He said that his attempts to revive classical Arabic music are helped by a trend in the United States towards ethnic music. "In fact, this trend is becoming international," he said.

This genre of music, he says, is becoming very popular in New York. "Whenever I give a concert in Manhattan, my tickets are always sold well ahead of time," he said. Dr. Shaheen said he took part in several activities to promote Arab-Americans and their organisations in America.

### Arab schools of music

Assessing schools of music in the Arab World and their concept of classical Arabic music and its development, Dr. Shaheen said there are three schools: "The first takes Arabic music and tries to imitate Western pop and rock and roll music with the use of Western musical instruments. The second school does not use Western musical instruments, but only Western music with Arabic lyrics and some modifications, such as in the songs of Fairouz and Abdul Wahab. The third is a school which tries to imitate classical Western forms. They develop it into melodic and rhythmic themes and they call it Arabic music."

Dr. Shaheen rejects all these schools. He maintains that the only way to create original Arabic music is to develop the classical Arabic music of the Moorish period (9th to 12th Century) and early 19th Century Arabic music. "There is so much richness, energy and intensity in this music that there is enough for us to experiment with for years," he said.

He cited the main reason behind the erosion of classical Arabic music to be the cultural invasion of the West. "I see classical Arabic music of the Moorish and early 19th Century period as raw material for us to utilise in creating something very original," he remarked.

He lists the music written by Mohammad Othman and Da'oud Huseini as classics of 19th Century music and Sayyed Darwish, Riad Sunbati and Abdul Wahab as geniuses of 20th Century Arabic music.

Dr. Shaheen said that Arab singers like the late Umm Kalthoum are the best example of how classical Arabic music can be preserved and developed. He said that her songs were mostly based on classical Arabic literature and poetry. "There was a clear concept of rhythm," he said.

Umm Kalthoum, he continued, had a "jazzy" voice with an incredible technical ability and an excellent use of ornamentation. He said she had a wide vocal range and excellent song and music writers. "People like her won't be forgotten easily," he remarked.

## Crown Prince reiterates need to involve youth in community activities

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has stressed the importance of encouraging and promoting direct dialogue between the various institutions and departments dealing with the activities of youth in the Kingdom.

Prince Hassan made special reference to facilities for youth during a meeting with members of the administrative board and committees of the Forum Humanum which convened Friday at AT Hussein Sports City. The Crown Prince said that Jordanian youth are in need of more recreational facilities and encouragement and he stressed the importance of social activities and community spirit and the participation of schools, clubs and universities in defining the criteria and subjects to be discussed in order to create a generation of youth who believe in the

concept of social work for the benefit of society as a whole. He also stressed the importance of discussion and dialogue as a recognised tradition and the importance of cooperation and coordination in the various activities related to youth.

The Crown Prince also stressed the importance of involving the alumni clubs of Jordanian, Arab and foreign universities in the forum's various activities.

The chairman of the forum's administrative board earlier spoke about the forum's activities and programmes. He also referred to the first national meeting for youth which will be held at the Ajloun summer camp this year and the second national meeting of Arab youth will be held in late August under the patronage of Prince Hassan.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Expatriate remittances drop in 1985

AMMAN (J.T.) — Last year Jordanians employed abroad transferred JD 403 million to Jordan, down from JD 475 million in 1984, according to informed sources quoted by Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily newspaper. According to the report, in 1985 Jordanian expatriates numbered 339,000, most of them employed in construction businesses and the rest in transport, communications, industry, mining, and services. The report said that since the start of the 1980s fewer Jordanian workers have been finding work abroad.

### Municipal team leaves for Paris

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from Amman Municipality has left for Paris on a visit expected to last eight days. The team is visiting Paris at the invitation of the French capital's mayor. The delegation, led by Mr. Hammad Abu Jamous, will hold talks with officials at Paris Municipality on Jordanian-French cooperation in transport, traffic, the organisation of gardens, road maintenance, laboratories, health affairs and training personnel in public services. The delegation groups four other members in addition to Mr. Abu Jamous.

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## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Jordanian economy shows independence, despite hardships

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

ANY objective evaluation of the small and dynamic Jordanian economy would render most traditional measures and indicators of dependency and subordination to external powers irrelevant. This should give rise to a Jordanian concept (not to say theory) of independent development.

Normally, economic subordination is coupled with economic and financial exploitation, in favour of foreign powers and their multinational corporations.

Dependency has certain mechanisms and tools, such as extensive foreign trade, heavy external borrowing, sensitive foreign investments, media and cultural domination, and the like.

In Jordan, contrary to many Third World countries, it is extremely difficult to conclude that foreign economic powers do exploit the country, dominate its resources and raw materials, monopolise its domestic markets, or exploit its working class. On the contrary, we find that Jordan's close relations abroad, secured the flow of aid and soft loans. Great Britain, and later on the U.S., were over in a position to benefit financially from their commercial and financial relations with Jordan.

In our case, traditional subordination tools have an opposite effect. We are actually trying hard and granting tax exemptions and other facilities to attract multinational cor-

porations to invest capital in Jordan. It is these corporations that are not willing to do so. Those multinational companies that did move in to operate in Jordan, were not impressed. They did not achieve the easy profits and high returns they expect from operations in a less advanced Third World country.

It did not come as a surprise that Chase Manhattan Bank closed down its branch in Jordan which could not survive economically. Its management complained of low return on their capital. Chase, in effect, was unable to compete, successfully with our local banks. After more than ten years of hard work and aggressive marketing, Chase Bank could not

get more than one to one and a half per cent of the deposits' market.

American Life Insurance Company managed to obtain at one time over 80 per cent of the life insurance market in Jordan, which is by the way one of the largest life insurance markets in the Arab World. Newly established local life insurance companies were able in recent years to beat American Life Insurance Company, and reduce its market share to a very modest percentage, in a competitive market operating under equal fair rules.

Although the size of Jordan's foreign trade sector is almost 150 per cent of the volume of gross domestic product, yet interpreting that as a form

of dependency or subordination is far from truth. Our external trade is free. We can and do export to, and import from, all countries, be they capitalist, socialist, or developing. Our own interest is the only criterion for directing our trade.

It is true that international media and information domination led many peoples in the Third World to increased dependency and imitation of Western consumption patterns and to the reconditioning of peoples' thinking. Our experience was quite different. Western media failed to lure us, and Israeli propaganda lacks credibility and is being all but ignored. On the contrary the Jordanian information apparatus

is causing worry in the Israeli circles as it gains influence and credibility.

Sometimes, it is preached that independent development calls for delinking with the outside world, as a protection against dependency. This may be true and applicable in some big countries. In the case of Jordan, with small but dynamic economy, the dependent development is manifested in the form of freedom to make independent economic decisions.

Of course our independent decision-making process can be strengthened further through more democracy and inclusion of more people in the process of decision-making, in a better organised but responsible manner.

## Race against time

ACROSS THE world in more than 80 countries, and two hundred cities, millions of people will be running today to generate momentum for the biggest mass petition ever delivered — a petition of millions of people around the world, voting with their feet, to tell their leaders at the United Nations to act now to help Africa to help itself.

Jordan is joining this unprecedented event on its Independence Day in solidarity with Sudan and other African nations — and Jordanians will be running at 4.00 p.m. from a starting point near the Intermediate University College in Tabarbour on the highway to Zarqa.

This "Race Against Time" is not only Sportaid's grand finale. It is also the beginning of what organisers hope will be a continuing push of popular support to help Africa help itself. In the words of Mr. Tony Koslowski, secretary-general of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies in Geneva, "Africa wants to change its image — from one of a starving baby with flies in its eyes to one of a vibrant and dynamic society facing and taking its destiny into its own hand."

Under the leadership of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, we as Jordanians, a people who give to the world an example of tolerance, understanding and commitment to the alleviation of Africa's suffering, owe it to ourselves to join the race against drought, hunger and poverty. In running today, we will symbolically be bearing witness to solidarity with Africa. At the same time, participants will be helping to ease the hardships of Sudanese children, mothers and fathers.

As you read these lines, two young Jordanian runners will be warming up to join a throng of sport and entertainment celebrities and hundreds of thousands of people in the Race Against Time in London. Jordanian 18-year-old female champion Khadijah Al Matari, along with 20-year-old Ahmad Moukbel, will be giving another example of Jordan's humane commitment to our brothers in Sudan and Africa. You will not be able to run with these young Jordanian good-will ambassadors, Khadijah and Ahmad, in London. But there is a similar race in Amman. PLEASE JOIN IT.

## ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

### Al Ra'i: Thatcher's visit to Israel

BRITISH Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher was due in Israel Saturday on the first visit ever by a British prime minister to the Jewish state. This visit has given the Israelis an opportunity to raise the question of terrorism and also criticism directed against Britain for its arms sales to Jordan and Saudi Arabia. The Israeli information media have begun drumming up the questions on the eve of the visit, completely ignoring the central Palestinian issue and the Middle East question. It is ironic to see Thatcher meeting with Israeli leaders who once carried out acts of terrorism against the British troops in Palestine, and were sentenced by British courts. It is rather insolent for the Israeli leaders to try to speak about terrorism while they themselves led the world in these actions. Perhaps these leaders hope that they could abort any British arms sales for Saudi Arabia and Jordan, now that they have succeeded in cancelling similar deals with the United States. Israel's total disregard to Thatcher's declared intention of seeking to revive the peace process is a clear indication that the Israeli leaders do not wish to cooperate with her for achieving peace. One has to wait and see the outcome of this visit because it is indeed interesting and would bear influence on future events.

### Al Dustour: Britain blesses its 'creation'

BRITISH Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher arrives in occupied Jerusalem Saturday at the start of the first visit ever by a British premier to the Jewish state since the termination of British mandate in Palestine. Bitter memories will be rekindled in the hearts of millions of Arabs and Palestinians when they see Mrs. Thatcher warmly shaking hands with Israeli leaders, specially Yitzhak Shamir, who once was a wanted criminal in Palestine for his role in assassinating British officers. We would like to remind Mrs. Thatcher that it is her country that opened the door for Israel to occupy Palestine with the Balfour Declaration at the start of the 20th century. We would like to remind Thatcher that her country's total bias towards the Zionists had enabled them to show total disregard to all promises, and pledges and the rights of other people in Palestine. Britain, with its long political experience in Palestine, should not satisfy itself with the outward appearances and the achievements made by the Israelis in the occupied territory, but should rather delve into the heart of the matter and try to know more about the conditions of the millions of Palestinian refugees and their land and territory.

### Sawt Al Shaab: Fighting escalates in Lebanon

THIS mad escalation of fighting in Lebanon is meant to abort renewed efforts to end the civil war in the country. Those trying to stir the conflict could not be Lebanese or affiliated to the Lebanese people in any way because they are intent on bringing more destruction and killing to that country. The fighting in Beirut and other parts of Lebanon came in the wake of a statement in Damascus accepting the idea of introducing amendments to the agreement reached a few months ago by leaders of the warring factions. It also followed support for this Syrian attitude by President Gemayel and the leaders of the Maronites and Sunni Muslims in the country. Thus, one can easily recognise those elements which are still refusing to cooperate for the sake of bringing peace to the Lebanese people. The people of Lebanon do not need another 10 years of civil war, nor can they take any more tragedies; and all the factions are exhausted and longing for a settlement.

## Israeli briefs

### W. Germany, Israel collaborate in arms science

WEST German investment experts are linking up with Israeli know-how (including arms production know-how) for joint action in the Third World. According to January 20's *Allgemeine Juedische Wochenzeitung*, a German Jewish weekly in Bonn, such collaboration is gathering momentum. One project supported by Peres has been the investment of German-Israeli "venture capital" in a bi-national company working in the Third World. West German Finance Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg is said to be strongly opposed to the establishment of a German-Israeli research foundation, in spite of support for the idea from Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

### Israeli hypocrisy

IN January Israeli troops uprooted some 15 olive trees from the Palestinian village of Qattaneh, north of Jerusalem, and replanted them in a Jerusalem square named after the late U.S. black civil rights leader Martin Luther King. In a letter to King's widow, Corretta Scott King, the head of the Jerusalem-based Palestine Centre for the Study of Non-Violence, Mubarak Awad, called the incident "a strange and paradoxical act of what can only be called hypocrisy." Jonathan Kuttab, co-director of the Ramallah-based Law in the Service of Man Society, also wrote Mr. King, pledging that new trees would be planted in Qattaneh, to symbolize "peace, brotherhood, constructive action, non-violence, and opposition to racism and oppression." Both letters urged Mrs. King to protest to the Israelis about the incident.

### West Bank Israeli governor appointed before 1967

IT is well-known that Israeli President Haim Herzog served, in 1967, as the first Israeli governor of the West Bank; but many were astonished at the president's March 26 disclosure that he had received his appointment of ruler of as yet unconquered territories in... 1963, four years before the 1967 war. Herzog said he used the time to prepare for his upcoming role — studying Jordanian and Palestinian issues, recruiting a cadre of civilians to form the future occupation administration and organising various courses and "professional study days."

### Israeli arms to Latin America seized

ON March 27 Greece's Marine Ministry announced the seizure of the "West Lion," a ship carrying arms and ammunition from Israel to Portugal, Guatemala, and "other Latin American countries." The cargo consisted of 80 tons of ammunition, 200 tons of TNT, 24 Israeli-made "Uzi" sub-machine guns, and an Italian-made "August Bell" helicopter owned by the Guatemalan army — which had apparently been renovated by the "Tetel" corporation, a subsidiary of "Israeli Aircraft Industries," which specialises in re-making helicopters, especially for Latin American nations. A March 31 *Al-Hamishmar* report disclosed that the remaining cargo originated at the "Mivtza" plant at Gedera, south of Tel Aviv, which reportedly buys small arms and TNT from the Israeli Army, remodels them, and sells them throughout the world. *Mivtza's* daily noted *Mivtza's* good reputation, and the fact that it has never broken Israeli laws or Defence Ministry regulations concerning "defence-related exports." The arms deal was of course approved by the Defence Ministry. Officially, all the arms on the ship, except for the helicopter, were bound for Portugal. A Greek navy unit became suspicious when it found the West Lion's crew painting over the vessel's name, at high sea. The fact that this information found its way to the pages of *Al-Hamishmar* is rather exceptional, as Israeli military censorship normally forbids the publication of such details.

### Israeli general moves

ON January 19, General Ehud Barak ended two years of service as Israeli military intelligence head, and became head of the Central Military Command (West Bank). *Davar* remarked that such a short tenure in this post was unprecedented.

### W. German, Israeli cities sign agreement

THE Israeli city of Hadera recently signed a twin city agreement with Nuremberg — the German city which hosted annual Nazi mass rallies, and where the infamous race laws of 1935 were promulgated. The mayor of Hadera said he saw nothing wrong with the arrangement.



# Iraq's new tactics aim at forcing Iran to negotiate Gulf war peace

By John Owen-Davies  
Reuter

BAHRAIN — Iraq is gambling that it can prod Iran to negotiate peace in the Gulf war by taking Iranian territory and using it as a bargaining chip, diplomats say. With a military solution to the 5½ year war unlikely, Iraq in the last few weeks has changed its tactics to thrust across the border and capture strips of Iranian land.

Now, Baghdad has signalled willingness to barter a captured border town for an Iranian bridgehead on southern Iraq's Faw peninsula at the head of the Gulf. Diplomats say both sides view the psychological pressure of holding enemy land as the key to achieving their objectives.

But the diplomats see no quick end to the war, which has spread to shipping throughout the Gulf, mauled the economies of both Iran and Iraq, and claimed many thousands of lives.

Iranian officials have made no public statements of a wish for peace talks, and diplomats see no change in Iran's position.

Iraq, with a 3-1 population disadvantage, routinely supports outside moves for a negotiated

settlement. But the diplomats see no apparent sign of any fresh initiatives.

Diplomats said Iran's attack on the peninsula in February and Iraq's attempt to retake the disputed oil port of Faw broke a military stalemate.

They said a factor against Iraq in Gulf war fighting was its reluctance to take heavy casualties, fearing political repercussions among its people.

"Iraq has shown reluctance to throw masses of troops into fighting at any one time for fear of triggering a violent reaction from Iran, which has many would-be martyrs," one diplomat said.

Diplomats in Baghdad said Iraq's new strategy started with attacks to clear Iranian forces from Iraqi territory, mainly on the northern war front, which had been occupied since 1983.

In the second phase, Iraq said its forces occupied over 370 square km of Iranian territory in the central sector up to May 17, captured the Iranian border town of Mehran, five townships and four mountain peaks.

Baghdad's stated condition for leaving Mehran is either an unconditional withdrawal by both

sides to the pre-war border, or Iran's withdrawal from Faw.

Iran, however, has dismissed the Iraqi thrust around Mehran as militarily insignificant and purely a psychological move.

On May 17, a senior Iraqi official, Saadoun Hammadi, told foreign envoys in Baghdad: "Iraq will continue its offensive policy... until real chances for complete and comprehensive peace become available."

Iraq has also resumed attacks on targets in Iran, including oil refineries in Tehran and Isfahan, pumping stations and a train which it said was headed for the war front with troops and equipment.

Iran said the train was civilian and that 77 people were killed in the raid.

Iranian parliamentary speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said last week that attacks on "economic and civilian targets" would not provoke Tehran into changing its long-term goals.

One analyst in Tehran said: "The Iranians have little option other than to try to contain the war at the front while they wait for the change inside Iraq they fervently hope for."

Diplomats said after the May 7 attack on the Tehran oil refinery that some Iranian leaders wanted Iran to respond by firing a missile at Baghdad, while others, whose views prevailed, urged no escalation now.

While economic problems, especially lower oil prices also felt keenly by Baghdad, are putting pressure on the Tehran government to end the war, the key lies with Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, they say.

Reports from Tehran indicate Khomeini has squashed any suggestion of peace talks with Baghdad and that Iran is preparing for another major cross-border offensive.

The London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) said in its latest "Strategic Survey" issued this month that the Gulf war had reached an "impasse."

"Iran is not prepared to negotiate but cannot dictate its own peace. Iraq is more than willing to make peace, but cannot accept Iran's terms," it said.

It said there was no real scope for third-party mediation while Iran stuck to its goals.

# Soviets failed to decide on mandatory retirement

By Andrew Rosenthal  
The Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Kremlin's ideology secretary has confirmed that the Communist Party considered and rejected a proposal for strict limits on terms in office to replace the current system in which bureaucrats hang on to power for decades.

Such a proposal had been widely rumoured before the 27th party congress, which ended in early March. But the congress did not discuss mandatory retirement or include the idea in its revision of the party rules.

Politburo member Yegor K. Ligachev raised the issue in a speech last Wednesday. Bringing it up more than two months after the congress could have been a signal to the party and public that the question has been put to rest.

Or it may be a sign that the leadership is still debating mandatory retirement.

Party chief Mikhail S. Gorbachev has said there should be new blood in the party ranks, and the congress replaced about half of the membership of the party central committee.

There is no retirement mechanism in Soviet bureaucracy, and leaving office can mean a loss of privilege. Officials at all levels often stay in office as long as they are politically, even if not physically, healthy.

Yuri V. Andropov, for example, remained president until his death even though in his last months he was confined to a sickbed and apparently at times not capable of command decisions.

About 10 minutes of Ligachev's speech to oil workers in the city of Almeteyevsk in Soviet Tataria were broadcast during the national TV news Wednesday night.

Ligachev, 65, said it clear he thought limited terms were a bad

idea.

"On the eve of the congress, when programme documents were being discussed, it was suggested that we strictly limit the tenures of workers in leadership posts," said Ligachev, the party's ideology secretary and considered the second-most powerful man in the politburo.

"It would seem that such a measure would allow the quality of leadership to be increased," he said. "But think about what would happen in practice. A man gains experience leading a collective, but he is a Communist and is told: 'your term is over, goodbye.'"

Ligachev said some people can function productively in a single post for long periods, and others work well at advanced age.

"One shouldn't judge by the calendar, but by the results of a leader's work," he said.

Ligachev's comments were the first public reference by a Soviet official to the party's review of the

retirement proposal. But Pravda, the party daily, omitted the remarks Thursday in a half-page of excerpts from the speech.

The omission could have been made for formal, technical reasons. Pravda serves as the party's written record, and since the issue of tenure wasn't raised at the congress, party leaders may not have wanted a reference to it in the newspaper.

But the omission also could be a sign that there is still debate on mandatory retirement.

Ligachev may have been simply intending to tell party workers that the issue was decided and to reassure them that if they do their jobs well, they will be supported by the Kremlin.

As ideology secretary, Ligachev's opinions would carry great weight in any party policy debate. Like his predecessors, Ligachev generally is conservative in his public statements.

# Boosted by Chernobyl, Greens block deal with SPD to unseat Kohl

By Mark Wood  
Reuter

BONN — Radicals bolstered by the Chernobyl nuclear accident have taken control of West Germany's Greens Party and barred the way to collaboration with the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) to unseat Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Capitalising on alarm over the radiation leak from the Soviet reactor last month, "fundamentalists" demanding the closure of nuclear plants crushed moderates at a four-day congress in Hanover.

They went on to swing the party behind calls for a West German withdrawal from the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation

(NATO) and set conditions for cooperation with the Social Democrats that many admitted were beyond hope of acceptance.

It was reaction to Chernobyl that galvanised the congress and appeared to have prompted the most serious clashes to date between anti-nuclear activists and the police at the site of a planned atomic reprocessing plant at Wackersdorf, in Bavaria.

During the pitched battles in which the police dropped riot gas on protesters from helicopters, nearly 400 people were injured, 183 of them policemen. Speakers said 27 of the injured officers were seriously hurt.

After the Greens congress, the long-term effects of Chernobyl

are likely to be a significant change in the West German political landscape.

In the past year the pragmatic wing of the Greens steadily gained ascendancy with its policy of limited cooperation with the SPD to achieve some of the party's environmentalist goals.

But Joschka Fischer, environment minister in a Greens-SPD coalition in the State of Hesse, was jeered at the congress and radical leader Rainer Trampert said any prospects of further collaboration were buried.

The change of tack could be important after national elections next January if the Greens hold the balance of power in the Bonn parliament, as some opinion polls

forecast.

Follsters say a Greens-SPD combination could be in a position to oust the government. Support for the Greens has almost doubled since the Chernobyl disaster and the popularity of Kohl's centre-right coalition is in decline.

That prospect has now receded and Kohl could be the main benefactor of the Greens congress if voters considering switching to the SPD decide its prospects of forming a stable government are remote.

The congress ruled that the SPD would have to agree to an immediate shutdown of nuclear power plants and move towards the Green's position on NATO if it wanted their backing.

"The SPD just cannot deliver on all that, which means that on a national level there will be nothing by way of cooperation," Trampert told reporters.

Johannes Rau, the SPD candidate for chancellor, evidently agreed. "The Greens have shown they are no partners for responsible government policy," he said in a radio interview.

The congress showed the party did not even want to increase its popular support and was determined to frighten off all but the most radical supporters, he said.

The newspapers Frankfurt *Allgemeine* said nuclear energy was only a peripheral issue in Hanover, disguising the adoption of positions that made the Greens

into a radical left-wing party. "There was not even an attempt to make concessions to the SPD, instead the Social Democrats were instructed what direction they had to take," it said.

The right-wing *Die Welt* said the Greens had at last shown their true face and revealed themselves as a movement dedicated to destroying West German society.

"No honest democrat could even consider entering an alliance with these forces," it said.

The Green's Party was launched more than five years ago as a movement rejecting compromise with traditional parties and in some ways the Hanover resolutions marked a return to its roots.



# The Dead Sea: A wealth of salts, minerals and crystals

By Anne Counsell.

Photos by Bill Lyons

VISITORS to the Dead Sea, the lowest place on earth — it is 395 metres below sea level (1,296 feet) — may not experience the same sense of achievement as those who climb to the summit of the world — Mount Everest — but the stark, almost lunar, environs of the Dead Sea and the echoes of human history from past eons evoke, nevertheless, a sense of awe and fascination.

Despite its name, the Dead Sea is not totally inert; under the influence of the atmosphere, fluctuations in temperature, evaporation, the flow of incoming water and, to an extent, human activity, it is in a state of chemical and geological flux.

The Dead Sea, which lies along a geosuture (a sunken block between two geological faults), was formed when the land subsided and filled, some 10 million years ago, with water. This turned the entire Jordan Valley region into a continuous body of water — a large inland lake called Lake Lisan (Lisan meaning "tongue" in Arabic). Later, the lake began to dry up and shrink, eventually breaking up into Lake Tiberias and the Dead Sea.

Because the Dead Sea, originally springfed, lies in a basin with no exit, salts have accumulated in the basin, sometimes by percolation through the surrounding earth. Gradually building up over the centuries, they give the Dead Sea its strongly saline character: higher concentrations of salts than any other large body of water. These salts include magnesium, potassium and bromide which comprise about 13 per cent of the ionic composition of the surface water and are largely responsible for the bitter taste and "greasy" feel of the water.

One result of this odd chemistry is the striking, but transient, salt crystal formations. Appearing — unexpectedly — in shallow lagoons at periodic intervals, these formations are natural works of art: billions of charged atoms in intricate geometrical formations shaped by nature into unique works of crystalline art.

The most impressive of these natural sculptures are the "salt mushrooms" which stand on their halite or rock salt stems in shallow pools near the shoreline. Their hoods are circular to elliptical and

the mushroom cap can reach up to half a metre in diameter. From afar they look like giant fungi sprouting from the water but closer inspection shows concentric rings of small, platy rectangular halite crystals with patchy crusts seated on hollow stalagmitic stems composed of what are called "pyramidal" crystals.

While many of the formations have clearly defined stems and caps, some of the "mushrooms" are less distinct; the two sections meld into inverted pyramidal shapes protruding from the water. Others, with no cap at all, give the impression that weathered columns from some submerged Roman city are surfacing from the depths of the sea.

Since the rates of formation for each mushroom vary, various stages of growth are evident in most of the formations; it looks as if an animal has wandered through the field nibbling at the fungi. And although not as striking as the finished article, the formative stages of the salt mushrooms are impressive in their own right and further emphasise the ephemeral quality of the Dead Sea's character. Mushrooms usually begin to form on cool mornings, after periods of intense evaporation when the shallow lagoons become covered with floating rectangular halite crystals. The crystals blanket the surface of the water with an opaque, exceptionally delicate coating; the most gentle breeze can break this sheet and when it breaks, parts of it sink and the crystals attach themselves to plant debris or pebbles. Gradually, as a result, a stem of halite crystals begins to grow upwards eventually reaching the surface where other crystals adhere to it and form the cap.

Each stage of the process is delicate; a strong gust of wind, sudden rainfall, a rush of incoming water or temperature fluctuations can halt and sometimes destroy the stem. In the space of a day, the salt sculpture may totally disappear beneath the water. Because the ions and isotopes present in the water of the Dead Sea crystallise in different ways, there is a diverse array of natural formations. Hard, light-gray-to-brownish crusts of gypsum (hydrated calcium sulphate) can be seen on the keels of boats, on rocks, and on ropes left hanging in the water. The comparatively large, flat, polygonal plates in gypsum crystals give rise to more crusty structures than those formed by cluster of calcite (crystalline calcium carbonate) which has crystals resembling small twined needles; these needles lock together in forms resembling blossoms of white anemones. Along the shores of the Dead Sea variations in the forms depend on how ions are arranged within the structure and whether other ions or trace elements find their way into the lattice to substitute for particles with the same charge.

Even mundane aragonite (calcium carbonate), a common compound found in chalk and limestone, can take on a spectacular appearance when an increase in temperature, often at the end of summer, triggers mass precipitation; the result is a dramatic whitening of the water as snowy clouds of the compound slowly descend to the sea bed. Turbulence and wave motion prolong the deposition of aragonite and give the water a striking, nebulous quality.

On other occasions, the Dead Sea wears a different mantle; sheets of air bubbles foam like surf on the ocean; the froth is probably formed from the contact of hot or cold springs with the water of the Dead Sea and is due to differences in temperature and density. Although not particularly attractive, chips of asphalt also decorate the Dead Sea and evoke images of the past. For example, there is an episode in Genesis, chapter 14:2 and 3, in which the kings of five cities — Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, Zeboim and Bela (which is Zoar) — were defeated in battle and, while fleeing, fell into what seem to have been bitumen pits "in the Vale of Siddim which is in the Salt Sea."

Since floating asphalt is only found after storms, wave activity probably dislodges it from the bottom; research, moreover, has indicated that seepages occur not deeper than 15 to 30 metres beneath the present lake level so they could be identified with the bitumen pits mentioned in the Bible. In addition, it is popularly believed that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, destroyed by fire and brimstone, are lost in the depths of the Dead Sea.

Today, the character of the Dead Sea is slowly changing and with the passage of time fewer of these natural formations and phenomena of the sea will remain. This is because the salty waters of the famous sea are gradually drying up as increasing amounts of water are drawn off from the streams and rivers flowing into the lake and used in agriculture, mining and industry. Already the evaporation rate exceeds the inflow rate and eventually the whole area will become mud flats. If political boundaries did not exist, in fact, it would soon be feasible to cross the Dead Sea at its narrowest



Suspended salt particles give the appearance of "surf" in the Dead Sea. They also form unique works of crystalline art below the surface



"Salt mushrooms" one of the unique salt crystal formations shaped by nature in the Dead Sea

## Tangshan today — a decade after the 1976 earthquake

By Ying Chenxiao

A giantquake raze Tangshan, an industrial city in north China, to the ground 10 years ago. Now a new city better than the old has arisen from the ruins.

SEEN from the top of Phoenix Hill in the centre of the once quake-ravaged Tangshan, broad streets lined with trees and flowers crisscross the city, stretching far to the horizon; rows of four- to six-story houses in pink, yellow, green or brown stand one block after another, glistening in the sunshine.

In the streets, streams of bicycles and red and cream-coloured buses move along the broad east-west and south-north thoroughfares, carrying people to factories, offices, schools, shops.

The attractive scene makes one almost forget that 10 years ago Tangshan was hit by one of the worst earthquakes in world history.

It was on July 28, 1976, Tangshan, a heavily industrialised city 1560 kilometres east of Peking, was flattened by a 7.8-magnitude earthquake.

Tragically, about 242,000 people out of a population of one million were killed in the quake, including 148,000 in the city proper. And more than 160,000 others were seriously injured.

In only 23 seconds, most of the city's buildings, bridges, roads and canals collapsed or suffered serious damage. All the traffic, communications, water and electricity supply were disrupted. Estimated economic losses were valued at about three billion yuan (\$1 billion).

Massive anti-quake and relief work began soon after with the help of the army and support from the whole country. Within two weeks, seriously injured people were evacuated to other cities for

treatment; water and electricity were again supplied; highways and railways reopened; telecommunications were restored; banks and shops went back to business and the "Tangshan Labour Daily" resumed publication.

Building makeshift houses for some 600,000 survivors was the most pressing task in relief work. In half a year, 440,000 rooms in quake-proof shelters were built before winter set in. Prompt restoration of hospitals and other medical facilities, coupled with other effective measures, freed Tangshan from epidemics. The incidence of other common diseases also was kept lower than the pre-earthquake period.

"It has not been easy for people to restore production and lead a normal life," said Long Jiajun, deputy director of the Tangshan Reconstruction Command.

Despite problems and difficulties, however, production in Tangshan was restored quickly. By 1979, Tangshan's industrial production exceeded the pre-earthquake level. In 1985, the city's industrial output value was 3.78 billion yuan, 70 per cent up from 1975.

The removal of rubble was a big problem before reconstruction. "Indeed, rebuilding Tangshan on the ruins is much more difficult than building a new city from scratch," Long added.

For almost a year, a programme to rebuild Tangshan was worked out on the basis of detailed geological research and extensive economic and social investigation. About 200,000 construction workers and several hundred city pla-

ners and architects were drawn from all parts of the country. Full-scale construction started in the latter half of 1979.

By the end of 1985, more than 222,000 families — 96 per cent of the city's total — had moved into new apartment buildings. Now with a citywide population of 1.36 million, the number of families also has increased over the years. "It is expected all the makeshift shacks will be removed before July this year," claimed Yue Qifeng, a top official of the city administration.

Covering 1,090 square kilometres, the new Tangshan consists of three sections — the city proper, a new industrial district and a mining area.

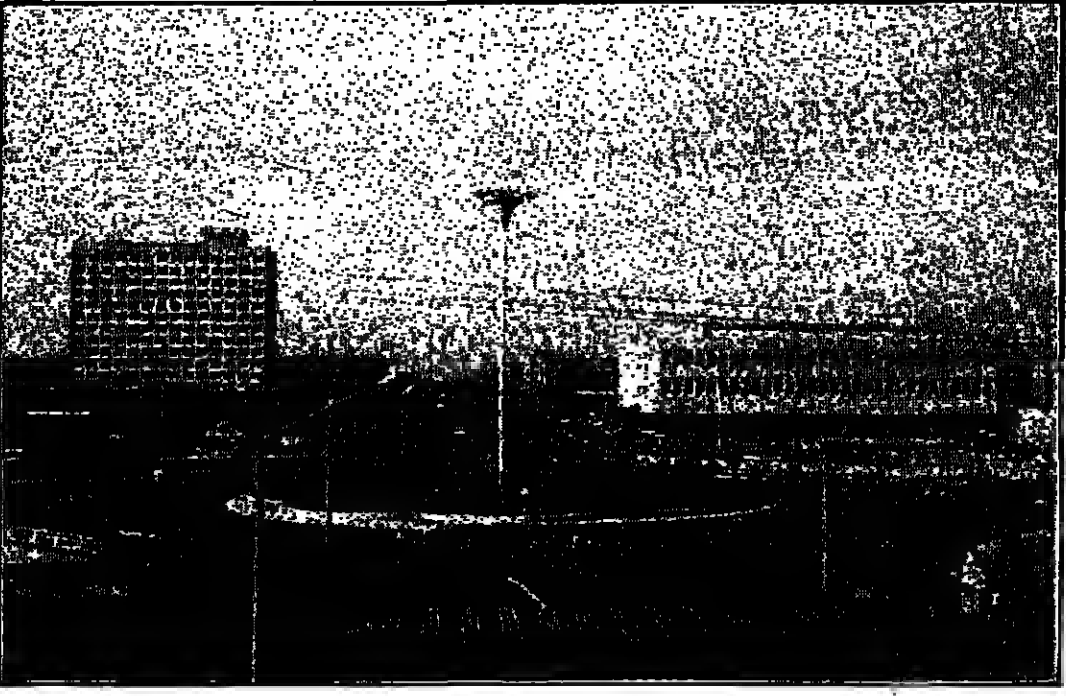
The city proper is built on the old city site, occupying 40 square kilometres. All administrative offices and most factories have been reconstructed in the area.

The new industrial district is located to the north of the city proper. It has been an industrial centre producing building materials, machinery, power and textiles.

To the east of the city proper is the mining area with a population of 300,000. Forming a triangle, the three sections are 25 kilometres apart from each other.

"Considering the possibility of strong aftershocks in coming years, all architectural designs are required to be able to withstand a shock of force 8 on a 12-point intensity scale," said Zhang Jianhua, director of Tangshan Seismological Bureau.

For this purpose, many anti-quake measures were taken in the city's reconstruction and the new building materials used. Important buildings were built with firmer foundations and higher construction quality. Roads were



The city of Tangshan rebuilt after the earthquake

widened and straightened, and have more exits. Multi-stories were built for water and electricity supply and communications installed in both wire and telecommunications format.

Now, there are 91 sub-districts in the city's housing estates separated from the industrial areas by a buffer zone to free them from pollution. Each with 10,000 to 20,000 population, the sub-district has its own networks of department stores, schools, banks, post offices, hospitals, hotels, flower gardens and other public facilities.

Most of the apartment buildings are four- to six-story blocks. They contain one- to three-bedroom flats with central heating and gas supply. Having roomier living space, residents in Tangshan share an average of eight square metres each person, bigger than in any other city in China.

In the past decade since the earthquake, the government has allocated five billion yuan (about

point — the Lisan Strait — just as

19th-century camel caravans did. Already large halite crystals — cubes with up to 10-centimetre faces — can be picked up from areas exposed after periods of high evaporation.

Tourists, who generally come to the Dead Sea to experience its unique buoyancy and to have their photograph taken reading a newspaper while floating, are surprised and impressed when they chance upon such striking crystal formations; such phenomena are rarely mentioned in guidebooks and are seldom included as part of the Dead Sea's attractions because they are not in the area adjacent to the main tourist beach and facilities. And they may never be mentioned. Although scientists believe that it could take 1,000 years for the Dead Sea to dry up completely, many of the salt formations are already beginning to disappear — another facet of the ancient Middle East vanishing beneath the sands.

Ms. Counsell is on the staff of the Jordan Times. This article first appeared in America World Magazine

Since floating asphalt is only found after storms, wave activity probably dislodges it from the bottom; research, moreover, has indicated that seepages occur not deeper than 15 to 30 metres beneath the present lake level so they could be identified with the bitumen pits mentioned in the Bible. In addition, it is popularly believed that the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah, destroyed by fire and brimstone, are lost in the depths of the Dead Sea.

Today, the character of the Dead Sea is slowly changing and with the passage of time fewer of these natural formations and phenomena of the sea will remain. This is because the salty waters of the famous sea are gradually drying up as increasing amounts of water are drawn off from the streams and rivers flowing into the lake and used in agriculture, mining and industry. Already the evaporation rate exceeds the inflow rate and eventually the whole area will become mud flats. If political boundaries did not exist, in fact, it would soon be feasible to cross the Dead Sea at its narrowest

point — the Lisan Strait — just as 19th-century camel caravans did. Already large halite crystals — cubes with up to 10-centimetre faces — can be picked up from areas exposed after periods of high evaporation.

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Boehm is not a well known architect outside Germany. It would not be so far off beam to describe him as a latecomer to the international architectural halls of fame. Part of the reason is that he has, for 40 years, quietly got on with the job of designing churches, town halls and other buildings in Germany in the post-Bauhaus manner.

It is unusual to find an architect who represents the third generation of an architectural family. Boehm's father, Dominikus, was well known for the major reforms he carried out in church design from the 1920s. He anticipated the changes of the Second Vatican Council by bringing together the congregation and the celebrant around a more central altar.

Dominikus Boehm's Expressionist churches of the 1920s, mostly around Cologne, were in their day strong and sensuous developments of the plastic vocabulary of that school of artists who were influenced by Art Nouveau and Rudolf Steiner. The billowing white folds of the abstract Gothic interiors of churches such as Frielingsdorf were clearly important influences on the subsequent career of Gottfried.

The reason for Boehm's comparative neglect is not unassociated with the fact that his work is also highly expressionistic and romantic, and frequently influenced by the past. He is clashing without being a slavish follower of any modern movement. In the speech which he made after receiving the prize in London's Goldsmiths' Hall, Boehm deplored the ruin of the cities of Europe by so much insensitive architecture built since the second world war.

His own work has always been distinguished by what he calls "connections" — establishing an intricate series of links between new architecture and the existing fabric of the city. "I think the future of architects," he wrote recently, "doesn't lie so much in continuing to fill up the landscape, as in bringing back life and order to

## Chernobyl-like risks seen in U.S. nuclear plants

By Christopher Hanson  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — When a blast ripped through the Soviet nuclear power plant in Chernobyl last month, spewing deadly radiation into the atmosphere, Western atomic energy advocates said it could not happen in America.

But according to nuclear power experts who have made a comparison between the stricken Ukraine site and Western plants, the risk of a radiation disaster in a U.S. power facility should not be discounted.

"The Russians are not the only ones playing Russian roulette with nuclear power," Atomic energy critic Daniel Ford, who has written extensively on the subject, told reporters this week.

Last month, after Moscow acknowledged there had been a serious accident, the U.S. power industry quickly asserted that Soviet plants were much more dangerous than their U.S. counterparts, lacking Western-style containment safety systems to guard against radiation leaks.

The U.S. committee for energy awareness, which is supported by power companies, ran newspaper advertisements citing better U.S. safeguards. Sherwood Smith, chairman of Edison Electric Institute, a major power company, declared: "We have not and will not have a Chernobyl-type plant accident here."

Nuclear advocates said the containment system at the U.S. nuclear facility at Three Mile Island, Pennsylvania, prevented a serious radiation leak during a highly publicised 1979 accident.

But U.S. officials, citing intelligence reports and diagrams of the Chernobyl plant, told Reuters they are now convinced the facility there did contain a modern containment system.

Although they did not know if that system would pass Western safety inspections, they said the fact that containment devices failed at Chernobyl carried more disturbing implications for American power systems than was originally believed.

Robert Pollard, a former safety expert on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, contends that containment systems in 39 U.S. General Electric nuclear power plants could be as failure-prone as their Soviet counterparts.

"There apparently was a hydrogen explosion at the Chernobyl plant that blew the top off the

whole building," Pollard told reporters this week. "Could that occur at a G.E. plant? You bet it could."

Ford, citing U.S. Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) documents on nuclear plant safety, said: "The basic problem at G.E. plants is that their containment building might rupture — or fall down — under the stress of a major accident."

The AEC documents, dating from the 1970s, included a proposal to ban the so-called pressure-suppression containment system used in G.E. plants because it was too dangerous. The same system is used in Soviet plants, officials say.

That proposal was ultimately rejected, according to a second document, because such a ban "could well be the end of nuclear power."

Ford said the concrete dome structures which surround many nuclear power plants in the United States and Europe contained openings through which radiation could escape in an accident.

"They are quite porous," he said.

A spokesman for G.E. told Reuters the company's plants were safe, that their safety was continually being upgraded and that U.S. energy officials have given their approval in the plants containment devices.

One reason these devices were safer than their Soviet counterparts, he said, was that they did not contain graphite, a material which burned furiously at Chernobyl.

Asked to quantify the chances of a Chernobyl-like accident in a G.E. plant, the spokesman replied: "Practically zero."

U.S. energy officials said graphite used in the Chernobyl plant to shield nuclear fuel rods made them more dangerous than American reactors. Under accident conditions, the graphite would produce more hydrogen gas of the sort which experts think caused the Chernobyl blast.

U.S. designs, which use water rather than graphite, would probably produce less of the dangerous gas, the sources said.

But some critics have not been reassured.

Democrat congressman Edward Markey said in a statement: "The U.S. nuclear industry is right to be defensive but wrong when it asserts it can't happen here."

"Containment buildings are not fail-safe,"

## Building a reputation

A West German architect has won the Pritzker Architecture Prize — akin to the Nobel in other fields. Colin Amery describes how this accolade is more than just another trophy.

LONDON — The Pritzker Architecture Prize, sponsored by the American Hyatt Foundation, has become the equivalent of the Nobel Prize in other creative fields. This year, Mr. Jay Pritzker presented a Henry Moore bronze and U.S. \$100,000 to the 66-year-old German architect Gottfried Boehm.

Boehm is not a well known architect outside Germany. It would not be so far off beam to describe him as a latecomer to the international architectural halls of fame. Part of the reason is that he has, for 40 years, quietly got on with the job of designing churches, town halls and other buildings in Germany in the post-Bauhaus manner.

It is unusual to find an architect who represents the third generation of an architectural family. Boehm's father, Dominikus, was well known for the major reforms he carried out in church design from the 1920s. He anticipated the changes of the Second Vatican Council by bringing together the congregation and the celebrant around a more central altar.

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His own work has always been distinguished by what he calls "connections" — establishing an intricate series of links between new architecture and the existing fabric of the city. "I think the future of architects," he wrote recently, "doesn't lie so much in continuing to fill up the landscape, as in bringing back life and order to

our cities."

Well before some American critics started to discuss questions of semantics, Boehm was actually erecting buildings which were concerned with communicating a meaning to the world. His town hall at Bensberg, built on the ruins of an ancient circular fortress, assumes the language of a civic, towered centralised building around a courtyard. Its form speaks of the past, although it is expressed in modern materials, particularly poured and moulded concrete.

The pilgrimage church at Neviges is perhaps the most famous of Boehm's works. A broad, stepped path leads up towards the towering mountain peaks of the concrete church. There is something of the intensity of Gaudi here, both inside and out, in the sculptural form and the spatial manipulation.

There are other German architects who have continued to develop in this sort of organic way, particularly Schumacher at the Philharmonie Hall in Berlin. Beside the work of Boehm, theirs can look forced.

Today, Boehm has moved from the architecture of moulded concrete to glass and steel, and this is best seen in the new civic centre at Bergisch-Gladbach, and the Diocesan Museum at Paderborn.

In these latest examples of his work, Boehm has adopted the language of rationalism and taken it a step back towards its classical roots. The headquarters of the building company Zueblin, outside Stuttgart, is an interesting synthesis of engineering and formality. The central atrium and spiralling main stair seem to be inspired by 19th century engineers such as Paxton or Brunel — excellent in clarity and elegance and an instructive contrast with the more elaborate developments of high technology now fashionable in England.

The award of this major prize to a relatively unassuming architect makes the Pritzker much more than just another trophy. By giving the prize to Hans Hollein and James Stirling in recent years, the Jury has demonstrated an understanding of the need for architects to develop their individual genius. It is these sui generis achievers who will change the course of architecture, and the Pritzker shows discrimination and generosity in rewarding them — Financial Times news feature.



# Piquet overtakes Berger to claim pole position in Belgian Grand Prix race

FRANCORCHAMPS, Belgium (R) — Brazilian Nelson Piquet gave a fine demonstration of the power of his Honda-engined Williams by claiming pole position in Saturday's final practice for the Belgian Grand Prix on Sunday.

Twice world champion Piquet and his Williams team had arrived at SPA-Francorchamps as leading challengers for honours because their super-fast cars seemed ideally suited to the circuit.

Piquet was surprisingly headed by the Benetton of Austrian prospect Gerhard Berger in Friday's opening run but he made amends Saturday with the best lap of one minute 54.331 seconds on the spacious 6.95 kilometre track.

It was Piquet's first pole position for Williams since he joined them from Brabham at the end of last season and the 19th of his Formula One career.

Berger, bidding for the first pole position of his short and promising

career, remained on the front row of the starting grid despite failing to improve on his initial effort of 1:54.468.

Berger was out on the circuit for only a short time after suffering from an engine misfire.

World champion Alain Prost of France improved to 1:54.501 in his McLaren and remained third quickest ahead of the Lotus of Brazil's Ayrton Senna, who jumped from fifth to fourth at the expense of Piquet's team mate Nigel Mansell.

Piquet, first in his native Brazil in the opening race of the season and second at the San Marino Grand Prix, failed to score in

Spain and Monaco, the two other races concluded to date.

He entered the 43-lap Belgian round of the series in third place in the standings behind Prost and Senna and needs a high finish to keep in touch with them.

Prost, determined to retain his crown, is bidding for his third successive win while Senna was victorious at SPA-Francorchamps last year.

Berger is certainly in good company as he attempts to improve on his third place at Imola last month — his best finish to date.

The spectacular Ardennes circuit is notorious for rapid changes in the weather — sunshine can give way to rain with barely a warning.

Senna summed up the feelings of the drivers when he said: "If it rains tomorrow it will be a very, very difficult race. If it is dry, it is tough on the cars and the engines."

## Santana drops Dirceu and Cerezo

By Andrew Warshaw  
AP Sports Writer

MEXICO CITY — Veteran striker Dirceu and key midfielder Toninho Cerezo, two of Brazil's most consistent players over the past decade, were axed Friday from next week's World Cup soccer tournament, only hours before the deadline for final squads to be submitted.

The two Brazilians were the shock omissions from the individual lists of World Cup squads handed in by each of the 24 teams to FIFA, the governing body of international soccer.

FIFA also announced several changes for the upcoming tournament, including permitting more substitutes to sit on the bench.

Apart from Brazil, the 23 other

countries submitted the same teams they had originally announced, including Argentina for whom central defender Oscar Ruggeri had been doubtful after twisting his ankle in a practice game Friday morning.

The World Cup finals begin May 31 and run through June 29.

The omissions of Toninho Cerezo and Dirceu, both of whom played in the Italian league, potentially were a grave blow to Brazilian hopes of a fourth World Cup title.

Because of several nagging injuries, Brazilian manager Tele Santana had brought a squad of 24 players to Mexico, knowing he would have to trim the party by two to make Friday's deadline.

When all the injuries cleared up, morale in the Brazilian camp lifted and Santana was expected to

be able to leave out two of his most inexperienced players, defender Valdo and winger Edvaldo.

Instead, Dirceu, who has played in the last three World Cup finals and Cerezo, who has starred in two, were omitted from the final roster.

Santana was not available for comment, but earlier Friday he had blasted his team for a lackluster performance against a Mexican First Division side.

Dirceu and Cerezo, both of whom had recently recovered from injury, were among several players who showed an ominous lack of understanding in the 2-0 win over Universidad Nacional.

Cerezo, 31, put his poor performance down to ill-health but Dirceu, substituted at halftime, ironically appeared to be convinced he had won a place in the party.

Before revealing the final squads at a hastily-arranged news conference, FIFA officials announced a series of innovations for this year's World Cup.

For the first time, all 11 players not competing in a particular match will be allowed to sit on the substitutes bench.

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## ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE WATER AUTHORITY BIDDING ON CONTRACTS 45/86/SFD, 46/86/SFD, 47/86/SFD

Water Authority of Jordan invites experienced contractors from member countries of Saudi Fund for Development, and local contractors who have been prequalified by the Ministry of Public Works as General and First Class water and sewerage upper divisions to submit bids for:

1- Contract 45/86/SFD which consists of the supply and installation of about 12 km of water mains with a diameter of 400mm, supply and construction of a pumping station and the supply and construction of a 12000 m<sup>3</sup> water tank. Bids for this contract are due not later than 12:00 noon Jordan local time on Saturday 28th of June 1986, at the Water Authority main office in Amman.

2- Contract 46/86/SFD which consists of the supply and construction of about 44 km of water mains ranging in diameter from 400mm to 1000mm. Bids for this contract are due not later than 12:00 noon Jordan local time on Saturday 5th of July 1986, at the Water Authority main office in Amman.

3- Contract 47/86/SFD which consists of the supply and installation of about 28 km of water mains with a diameter of 600mm and the supply and construction of two water tanks 6000 m<sup>3</sup> and 12000 m<sup>3</sup>. Bids for this contract are due not later than 12:00 noon Jordan local time, at the Water Authority main office in Amman.

A prebid conference will be held at 09:00 hours on Saturday the 14th of June, 1986 at the conference room of the Water Authority main office in Amman.

On or before June 14th, 1986 foreign contractors shall submit all information about their firms or joint venture such as experience, work in hand, completed works, financial statements etc. This information will be evaluated and bidders will be informed whether or not to submit a bid.

Tender documents are available at the Tender Department of the Water Authority main office in Amman at the rate of JD 300 each, non-refundable.

Eng. M.S. Kilani  
President  
Water Authority

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Dehayat to prohibit professional sports

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Youth Eid Dehayat has sent a message to Interior Minister Hassan Al Kayed asking him to issue instructions prohibiting "professional wrestling" in Jordan. In his message Dr. Dehayat stressed that the sport in Jordan is restricted to amateurs who compete without commercial gain, adding that this is the only basis for accepting any local or foreign sport activity in Jordan.

### Al Faisali to play in Arab championship

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Al Faisali sport club will represent Jordan in the Arab Team Soccer Championship which will be held in the Syrian capital of Damascus, August 15-26, according to the club's head Mustafa Al Odwan. Taking part in this championship will be teams from Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine, in addition to Jordan.

## Moroccans take rest at 'Liverpool' after practice

MONTERREY, Mexico (AP) — It may be just coincidence. It may be a deliberate plan to upset group rivals England at the World Cup soccer finals, beginning May 31.

But the Moroccan's favourite shopping spot here is called "Liverpool" — England's most successful club team.

Morocco and England — together with Portugal and Poland — are in the same first-round World Cup group based in this industrial city.

"Liverpool" is an ultra-modern shopping centre on the northern outskirts of Monterrey, 16 kilometres from Morocco's training centre at El Serrito.

Players are driven regularly to the eye-catching centre to unwind. But why "Liverpool?"

Goalkeeper Hamid Salaheddine shook with laughter when it was suggested that it had

been chosen to antagonise the English. Last season, Liverpool won the domestic league and cup competition.

"It is just somewhere we like to come after training. I don't know whether it was chosen because of the name," he said.

Midfielder Mounir El Habbadoui denied Morocco wanted to tease England. "We come here to enjoy ourselves and relax."

"Sometimes we buy, but it is very expensive here," he said. If the Moroccans look upon the centre as a good omen, they may be disappointed.

Not one member of the team that clinched the Liverpool club's domestic league title and the domestic cup, was English. The only Liverpool players in the World Cup are with Scotland and Denmark.

## Uruguay coach denies his team plans violent tactics

By Juan Maltes  
Associated Press Writer

TOLUCA, Mexico — Uruguay coach Omar Borrás on Friday angrily denied reports that his team will resort to violent tactics at the World Cup soccer championships.

These reports, Borrás said, "come from people who want to cause negative propaganda for Uruguay."

"There is nothing to it. Yes, we do work strong in our team but not with violence," he added at a news conference.

The coach was responding to Mexican newspaper reports that Uruguay would try to intimidate its opponents with rough tackling at the month-long tournament starting May 31.

Excelsior, a major Mexico City daily, commented this week that the Uruguay soccer team is so rough that its players might injure themselves in training.

Many of the Uruguay players have gained a reputation for roughness as members of foreign clubs in South America and Europe.

Borrás, however, said that instead of violence, Uruguay will display a "highly technical style of play. When people see us play they will end up applauding us."

He said none of his players were injured and all were eager to "see

the ball rolling on the field."

"Of course West Germany is our toughest rival. But I think that if we go past the first stage we'll be among the top four," Borrás said.

"But that is not our goal," he added. "Our goal is to win the World Cup. Otherwise we would have stayed back in Uruguay."

Uruguay, West Germany, Scotland and Denmark are considered the strongest first-round groups.

Enzo Francescoli, the team's star striker, predicted that the World Cup would return to South America in the hands of Brazil, Argentina or Uruguay.

In Argentina, where he scored 25 goals last season for River Plate, Francescoli is known as "The Prince" of soccer, as opposed to Argentina's own Diego Maradona, who is called "The King."

Asked to comment on Argentina coach Carlos Bilardo's claim that Maradona would emerge as the World Cup's superstar, Francescoli replied:

"When the championship is over, everyone will know who is the best player. I'm not the prince, and I don't know whether I'll become the king of the tournament."

Francescoli was transferred last week to Racing of Paris for a reported \$4 million. Maradona plays for Napoli of Italy.



## Notoriety clings to Schumacher

MORELIA, Mexico (AP) — West German goalkeeper Harald Schumacher ended four days of public silence Friday by talking to reporters about a team controversy he provoked.

Schumacher had served notice shortly after arriving in Mexico on May 19 that he would not speak to journalists, claiming he had been frequently misquoted.

Before arrival he had verbally sparred with team manager Franz Beckenbauer and sweeper Matthias Herget.

Beckenbauer told Schumacher to shape up or leave the team after the keeper was quoted in German press reports saying the squad's morale was low.

Schumacher got into trouble again Wednesday by injuring Herget's knee on a rough tackle during an inter-squad game. After an anxious day of treatment, Herget resumed training Friday.

Under fire for the incident, Schumacher defended himself Friday to reporters, saying he considered training matches as important as a real match and he wanted to prevent a goal with his tackle.

"The only difference is, for a training match I do not get a bonus. This has been my attitude during my 16-year career and I'm not going to change now," Schumacher said.

The experienced goalkeeper, one of the pillars of the two-time world champions and a reliable big-play man, earned notoriety in Spain with a ferocious tackle on France's Patrick Battiston.

Millions of television viewers around the world saw Schumacher run at full speed and crash feet first into a charging Battiston. The French player was carried out on a stretcher, his jaw broken.

West Germany came from behind to win the semifinal in Seville on post-match penalties. It was beaten by Italy 3-1 in the final.

Battiston was out for months, spending several weeks in hospital where he was visited by a repentant Schumacher.

The West German brought flowers and apologized. The two had a private talk. Despite the gesture, Schumacher was booed whenever West Germany played in France.

The vicious foul left Schumacher with a tarnished image both at home and abroad. But recent press coverage in West Germany projected a different Schumacher.

The husky blond is a frequent guest on television shows, where he is a jovial and articulate personality.

He is often portrayed as a kind, devoted family man and father to son Oliver, 6, and daughter Van-

essa, 2. Magazines show pictures of Schumacher playing with his children at home and leaving the field holding Oliver's hand following league games.

But shortly before the team left for Mexico, Schumacher severely criticized Beckenbauer's way of managing the team in a newspaper interview and claimed that team morale was low.

The manager was furious. He threatened to kick Schumacher off the team.

The two held a meeting behind closed doors and made up after Schumacher pledged not to give any more newspaper interviews for the duration of the World Cup.

But Schumacher blew up again Wednesday, during an intra-squad game in Morelia. Apparently angered by conceding three goals against his own teammates, Schumacher charged viciously into Herget.

Herget collapsed in agony and stayed down for 15 minutes while doctors treated his injured knee. He is expected to be fit in time for the opening game against Uruguay June 4.

Beckenbauer said Schumacher's tackle would have been hard to understand even in a competitive match. But he gave no indication he would take Schumacher off the team.

## Lendl, Navratilova lead French Open seeds

PARIS (AP) — Three former champions, including top-seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia, will vie for one semifinal spot in the \$2.6 million French Open tennis championships, which begins its two-week run on Monday.

Lendl, who captured the prestigious clay court crown at Stade Roland Garros in 1984, will face Michael Westphal of West Germany in his opening round match.

Also in the top half of the draw, which was conducted Friday, are 1983 champion Yannick Noah of France and Argentina's Guillermo Vilas, who won the crown in 1977.

Noah's first-round opponent will be fellow Frenchman Tarik Benhabiles, who upset another Frenchman, Thierry Tulasne, at Monte Carlo last month. Tulasne

is seeded 10th, while Noah is seeded fourth and Henri Leconte no. 9, in giving France three of the 16 seeds in the 128-player men's singles field.

Tulasne will face Italy's Francesco Cancellotti, while Leconte meets David De Miguel of Spain in the opening round.

Vilas, making a comeback at the age of 33, will face a qualifier in the first round.

Mats Wilander of Sweden will open the defense of his title against Chile's Ricardo Acuna. The right-hander is going for his third French Open title, first winning the crown in 1982 when he was 17 years old.

In the women's singles, no. 1 seed Martina Navratilova, seeking her third French Open title, will face Italy's Sandra Cecchini in their opening-round match. The defending champion on the red

clay courts at Roland Garros, no. 2 Chris Evert Lloyd, will play Cécile Caillotte of France.

West Germany's Steffi Graf, seeking her fifth straight tournament title and her first Grand Slam victory, is scheduled to meet Andrea Betzner of West Germany in the first round.

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## 6 killed, 8 hurt in Sri Lankan guerrilla attack

COLOMBO (R) — At least six civilians were killed and eight wounded when Tamil separatist guerrillas attacked three Sinhalese villages in Sri Lanka's eastern Trincomalee district, military sources said Saturday.

They said guerrillas armed with AK-47s stormed the villages of Serunuwara, Kallar and Gomarankadawala Friday night and shot the victims, mostly women and children, in a hail of bullets.

The sources said five died and six were wounded at Serunuwara and one was killed and two hurt at Kallar. They said several people were reported to have been killed and wounded at the third village but details were not immediately known.

The attacks came hours after military officials said troops had successfully swept through the northern Jaffna peninsula in a six-day operation to clear roads and secure areas controlled by Tamil guerrillas fighting for a separate state in Sinhalese-dominated Sri Lanka.

The sources said that because of this setback guerrillas were aiming for a backlash against Tamils in Colombo and other southern areas so they could accuse the Sinhalese of genocide. They also aim to drive Sinhalese villagers from the eastern province, which they want as part of a Tamil homeland.

The guerrilla killing of 13 Sinhalese soldiers in Jaffna in July

1983 triggered violence in Colombo and other southern areas which left more than 400, mostly Tamils, dead, hundreds of homes damaged, and thousands of Tamils homeless.

National Security Ministry sources said guerrillas had raided several Sinhalese villages in Trincomalee district over the past year and killed at least 150 people, including women and children.

The district has a mixed population of Tamils, Sinhalese, and Muslims, another minority.

Residents in Jaffna said the northern region was quiet Saturday, after six days of fierce battles between guerrillas and government troops.

The government in Colombo, meanwhile, was trying to retrieve threatened peace talks after India warned that it would have to consider whether to continue its mediation efforts to find a peaceful solution to the bloody conflict between majority Sinhalese and minority Tamils.

Indian High Commissioner Jyotindra Nath Dixit told Reuters Friday that during a meeting with President Junius Jayewardene on Thursday he conveyed India's

doubts about continuing its role if fighting was to go on.

Mr. Jayewardene said he had to meet the guerrillas with force but he was still interested in seeking a peaceful solution to the ethnic conflict, Mr. Dixit said.

Residents of Jaffna, the focus of government military moves in the past week, were quiet Saturday, residents reached by telephone said.

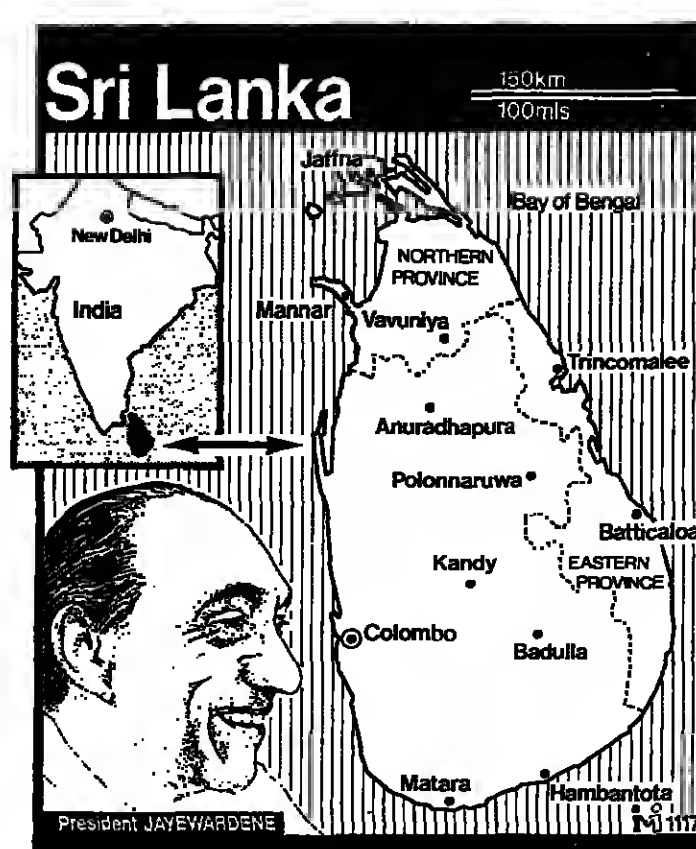
In Washington, a White House spokesman said Friday the United States hopes that the military action taken by Sri Lanka's government against Tamil areas "has by now ceased, or will cease promptly in order to enhance the prospects for a political solution" of the conflict.

"We continue to advocate a political solution, and negotiations must be the avenue of approach to resolve the problem in Sri Lanka and Tamil insurgency," Spokesman Edward Djerejian told foreign correspondents.

"It is a serious situation, and we hope a political solution can be found, and found promptly," Mr. Djerejian said.

In answer to questions, Mr. Djerejian said he was not aware of any current contact about the matter between U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene.

The United States in the past has voiced support for a united Sri Lanka and opposed Tamil separatist agitation for a separate country on the island off the coast of India.



President JAYEWARDENE

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## Najibullah appointment reportedly worsens dissent

PEKING (R) — Disputes within Afghanistan's army and ruling Communist Party have grown sharper since Najibullah replaced Babrak Karmal as party head early this month, the New China News Agency said Saturday.

In a signed commentary, the official agency said the Soviet Union was mistaken in thinking that its problems in Afghanistan would be solved by the change.

The agency said Moscow wanted Mr. Najibullah to ensure effective Soviet control in Afghanistan and to create conditions for more than 100,000 Soviet troops there to go home.

It said that Mr. Najibullah's appointment had, however, aroused strong opposition from Afghans and that all important departments and major military targets in Afghanistan were now guarded heavily by Soviet troops.

China says the Soviet troop presence in Afghanistan is one of the main obstacles to normalisation of Sino-Soviet ties.

Meanwhile the foreign ministers of Afghanistan and Pakistan have begun discussing Soviet troop withdrawals from Afghanistan at peace talks in Geneva but positions are wide apart, United Nations envoy Diego Cordovez said.

"It was the first time that they were discussing it, you must remember that," Mr. Cordovez stressed at a news conference Friday after adjourning three weeks of talks.

"Two issues, one of which is the timeframe for the withdrawal of troops, remain unresolved and in connection with that question there is still a wide gap," he said.

The U.N.-sponsored negotiations are set to resume here on July 30.

Mr. Cordovez, a U.N. under-secretary general and an Ecuadorian national, has been trying to secure a timetable for a Soviet pullout since the talks began in June 1982.

He said, however, that both sides felt "substantial progress" had been made in the latest round.

## Troops kill 7 blacks in 2 S. African clashes

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Seven blacks were killed by security forces in two separate confrontations during the night, police said Saturday.

Maj. Steve Von Rooyen, a spokesman at police headquarters, said soldiers shot dead four men who were part of a mob throwing fire bombs at a local councillor's home in Sentertown, a black township in Eastern Cape province.

At Alexandria, another eastern Cape township near Port Elizabeth, three men were shot dead by police while fire bombing a private home, Maj. Von Rooyen said.

More than 1,600 people, virtually all of them blacks, have been killed in unrest over the past 20 months.

Fire bombings have become increasingly common during the unrest, with such attacks carried out by anti-apartheid militants on the homes of suspected government collaborators and by pro-government vigilantes on the homes of anti-apartheid activists.

On Friday, the government ordered an investigation of an incident in which white extremists stormed a meeting hall and created such a tumult that tear gas was used to clear the auditorium.

One cabinet minister said police may have permitted the disruption.

The extremists, who oppose the governing parties to modify the apartheid race laws, refused to leave and the meeting Thursday was called off. Police fired tear gas, causing a stampede from the hall at Pietersburg in the far north of Transvaal province.

Manpower Minister Pietie Du Plessis said Friday that police in Pietersburg were "not capable, or did not want, to maintain law and order."

Louis Le Grange, the law and order minister, said the government would not tolerate "this."

When Mr. Gorbachev came to power in March 1985, analysts speculated that the thrust of Soviet foreign policy might change more towards Western Europe, Asia and the Third World.

But speaking at the Soviet Communist Party congress in February, Mr. Gorbachev showed once again Moscow's central concern with Washington and disarmament questions.

One of the main appointments in the series of foreign service changes was that of former Ambassador to Washington Anatoly Dobrynin, 66, as effective head of the party Central Committee's International Department.

Western diplomats, comparing his likely role to that of Henry Kissinger when he was U.S. national security adviser, said Mr. Dobrynin could be expected to offer Mr. Gorbachev an alternative centre of expertise to the Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Dobrynin attended Friday's meeting along with other party and ministry officials and Foreign Trade Minister Boris Arstov.

Mr. Gorbachev scored a number of foreign policy successes in his first year in office, meeting U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Geneva last November and taking several initiatives on disarmament.

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The board statement said that development of the space shuttle in the 1970s brought an end to the procurement of unmanned expendable launch vehicles before the shuttle became a reliable system and discouraged further planning for the development of advanced unmanned launch systems.

"These decisions had the effect of making unmanned space missions, including those of space science, dependent on manned vehicles, the shuttle in particular," the board statement said. "This policy ... has been devastating for space science."

Mr. Donahue emphasised, however, that the board is not taking a position against manned space flight.

"Most of us believe that there are functions that people in orbit perform well in support of science and application missions, such as materials processing, life sciences, and retrieving, servicing and refurbishing orbiting spacecraft," he said. "The shuttle in the future will be needed to get people up and down from the space station."

But Mr. Donahue said there are other functions that a manned vehicle like the shuttle is unsuited for — such as launching planetary probes, "where the complexities of launching major scientific missions from the space shuttle unnecessarily compromise both the safety of our astronauts and the success of scientific missions."

A statement released by the Space Science Board noted that scientific missions were being launched by the United States at a rate of five to six per year in the mid-1960s and that nine interplanetary missions launched before 1980 are still sending valuable data from space. The latter

missions like Voyager ... and the next comparable missions such as Galileo and Space Telescope.

Mr. Donahue said that both Galileo and the Space Telescope, originally scheduled for launch aboard the space shuttle this year, will be delayed at least another 18 months following the Challenger disaster.

He said another major scientific mission scheduled for launch this year, Ulysses, will be delayed until mid-1988 or possibly even mid-1989.

Mr. Donahue added that prior to the Challenger accident, plans were in place for launching a total of seven full-scale scientific missions over the next two years.

The Galileo spacecraft was to orbit the planet Jupiter and its four largest moons, and the German-American spacecraft Ulysses was to begin a six-year voyage to become the first man-made machine to move around the north and south poles of the sun, where magnetic activity complicates study of the sun. The \$1.2-billion Space Telescope was to be deployed in Earth orbit, permitting astronomers to peer 10 times farther into the heavens than ever before.

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## Bees will be busier than ever in China

PEKING (R) — Bees will be busier than ever under China's new five-year plan after making the country the world's top honey exporter in 1985, the New China News Agency said Saturday.

The agency said the number of bee colonies in China would grow by 33 per cent to eight million by 1990 and annual honey output would reach 155,000 tons, 25,000 tons up on last year. The report said the Soviet Union had more bee colonies than China and produced more honey but China sold 54,000 tons abroad last year to become the biggest exporter. It attributed the Chinese bees' performance to government tax breaks and cheap loans for beekeepers, who would be offered training courses to help bees reach new targets.

Winnie Mandela, in an interview broadcast in London, said Friday she doubted her husband, imprisoned black nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, would discuss a truce with the white-dominated government without consulting with other blacks and activists.

Speculation arose that Dr. Mandela might have discussed truce possibilities when a delegation of Commonwealth officials visited him last week in prison, where he has been held for the past 25 years.

But Mrs. Mandela, interviewed in a satellite television hookup from her home in Soweto, outside Johannesburg, said her husband "has been out of the picture for the past 25 years."

"He could have to consult with his people," and the leadership of the banned African National Congress (ANC) he heads, she said.

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## Aquino stresses independence of government

CEBU, Philippines (AP) — President Corason Aquino defended the independence of her government Saturday, saying it is not pro-American, leftist or church-influenced.

"I just want to assure everybody that my government is a Filipino government and I intend to keep it that way," she said.

Mrs. Aquino also indicated she may consider selective amnesty for soldiers accused of human rights abuses under the administration of ousted President Ferdinand Marcos.

"We will have to look at this on a case-to-case basis," she said. She said Filipinos should perhaps "forgive and forget" past military wrongs and help get the country on the road to recovery.

Mrs. Aquino spoke at a news conference before she was to address a public rally in Cebu city on the second leg of her provincial campaign that her aides say is intended to prove to critics of her 3-month-old government that she continues to command massive popular support.

Thousands greeted Mrs. Aquino when she drove in a motorcade through downtown Cebu, 560 kilometres south of Manila, after landing in a suburban military air base to begin a daylong visit to the Philippines' second largest city.

Responding to a charge that some of her ministers are leftists and anti-American, Mrs. Aquino said she has not appointed any Communist to her government.

Government opponents have said that Labour Minister Augusto Sanchez, presidential executive secretary Joke Arroyo and presidential counsel Rene Saguisag are either Communists or Communist sympathisers.

The three ministers are among the country's foremost nationalist figures and had joined street marches with workers and peasants to demand Marcos' ouster before the former president was toppled in a popular revolt in February.

All three have denied any Communist links.

Western observers said Australia and Canada delayed progress in the secret sessions on the auditor's job, held by Britain since UNESCO's founding. The current contract, worth \$460,000 over two years, was valid until 1990.

UNESCO's legal adviser told the board, however, that the agency's resolutions require that auditing be done by a member-state.

The board accepted a resolution that will have UNESCO's auditing handled through the U.N. Board of External Auditors until the general conference appoints a new member-state.

Australia and Canada proposed a resolution adopted in open session that calls for UNESCO to eliminate ambiguities in its constitution on how a member-state withdraws and its dues liability on withdrawal.

The United States, which contributed a quarter of the UNESCO budget, quit the agency in 1984 and the UNESCO claim that it owes \$43 million in dues is being negotiated.

## UNESCO grants U.K. observer status

PARIS (R) — UNESCO's executive board has granted observer facilities to Britain, which quit the U.N. agency last year, but refused to continue the British auditor-general's contract as the agency's external auditor.

The 50-member board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) took its decision in a secret session late Friday night after three days of discussion behind closed doors.

There were fears Britain would withdraw its request for observer status if it was publicly criticised, a member of the board's steering committee told Reuters.

Even after a compromise resolution had been hammered out, the Soviet Union still raised objections at the final session before debate was closed, several delegates said.

The executive board previously had met in closed session only on human rights or personnel issues, but Western sources said Britain had let it be known it would not press its request in the face of hostility.

"It's a reasonable request. We want to maintain a link to UNESCO," Britain's diplomat for U.N. affairs Alison Phillips told Reuters before the decision was made.

The resolution called on Amador Mahtor M'bow, the agency's controversial Senegalese director-general, to ask Britain to give UNESCO diplomatic privileges.

But one Western observer said the board does not expect Britain to change its domestic laws, which specify it accords such rights only to organisations in which it holds membership.

Withholding the privileges, as Britain has said it would do, would mean, for example, that UNESCO executives could not enter Britain on a U.N. passport.

During the secret hearings, Antigua and Barbuda urged the member-states not to exact "retaliation" and Pakistan appealed to the board not to pursue a "legal vendetta."

WASHINGTON (R Agencies) — Colonies on the moon and Mars serviced by space ships cruising through the heavens like ocean liners are some of the ambitious recommendations made by a presidential panel on the future of space.

In a glossy report to President Reagan and Congress, the National Commission on Space painted a bold picture of the next 50 years for the U.S. civilian space programme, despite severe setbacks from an unprecedented string of launch failures, including the loss of the Challenger space shuttle.

The report, dedicated to the seven astronauts who died in the Jan. 28 Challenger explosion, called for a strong public commitment to exploring and colonising space in the next century in programmes whose costs would dwarf anything proposed in the past.

"There was a feeling of exasperation that we were not doing more in space," Commission Chairman Thomas Paine told a news conference Friday. "The public wants a very bold approach to space," the former space agency administrator said of the testimony heard by the 15-member commission at hearings around the country since it began its work two years ago.

Mr. Paine acknowledged that Congress has been reluctant to fund new space adventures and is perhaps even less willing after the space programme's recent misfortunes.

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## Solomon Islands face critical food shortages

HONIARA, Solomon Islands (AP) — Critical food shortages faced the Solomon Islands after typhoon Nana left more than 100 people dead or missing and 90,000 homeless, officials said Saturday.

The storm denuded vast areas of jungle, turning lush green forests into virtual deserts, said a missionary involved in the rescue effort who flew over devastated areas.

The confirmed death toll stood as 97 people, with 39 others missing.

The prospect of starvation in the far-flung archipelago prompted Australia to airlift 350 tonnes of rice. In addition, four U.S. Air Force C-130 transports were to arrive Sunday from Hawaii with tents, medicine and food.

"The airlift has given us adequate supplies for the moment," said John Selwyn of the National Disaster Council in Honiara, the capital. "But there are still a lot of people to be visited and found."

Mr. Selwyn said it would be six months before rice production started again.

Pastor Errol Wright, who flew over storm-stricken areas, described the Guadalcanal plains outside Honiara as "a great sea of mud below us."

"What used to be thick jungles, extending over vast areas, have virtually become deserts overnight," Wright, of the Seventh Day Adventist Church, told the Australian Associated Press (AAP).

"Mountain tops have been stripped and what I saw was a huge desert for miles," he said in Honiara after returning from Malaita, 145 kilometres away.

Once-meandering rivers had cut a straight path to the sea, bringing millions of tonnes of mud and silt from the mountains and destroying bridges and roads, Wright said.

An AP correspondent in Honiara said the food problem was "very serious."

"It's beginning to look like starvation in some areas," said the correspondent, Alfred Sasako.